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AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY



WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE



By BOB BROOKS

In the 1960s, 70s and to a lesser extent the 80s, players were recruited in significant numbers from Britain, the then Yugoslavia, selected South American countries, Poland and a variety of other European States.

Some of these sports migrants have had a profound influence on Australian Soccer. Joe Watson, Dave Ratcliffe, Steve O'Connor, Frank Arok, Dez Marton, Zoran Matic, Paul Wade, Raul Blanco and yes, Eddie Thomson. All came to Australia, made their mark as players, and are now either coaches or involved still as players.

They migrated to Australia, have been pleased to become naturalised Aussies and consider their adopted country as their home. That was the time when Australia was a net importer of Soccer talent. Virtually none went from the 'Land Down Under' to overseas climes.

How times have changed! There are a known number of Australian developed players overseas plus an unknown quantity. Youngsters less than 17 years of age are going to Europe to trial and are being taken on as apprentices. They haven't had the opportunity of training at the AIS. After all there is only room for 20 or so in Canberra each year. Added to which officialdom does not know about them.

It makes one wonder just what is being done right to have achieved this dramatic turn around. Well 'done right' in Australia but what is going wrong in Europe, mainly in Britain?

Their population hasn't shrunk, in fact it continues to grow. Are there insufficient numbers of young people as a proportion of the population? Is ambition lacking in their young folk? Are they so involved in TV that they have taken on the role of lookers, voyeurs if you like, instead of active participants?

Is this a symptom of a modern, developed society, with an insufficient number of employment positions for its working age

population? We hear reports of many homeless people in Britain, some making do with packing boxes for shelter.

Whatever the reason, players from Australia continue to head to Europe and particularly Britain. This type of population shift actually aids our country in a number of ways.

For every one player leaving these shores, another void is created. A youngster can step up much sooner to a major team. It could be argued that there is a limit to the talent available to be nurtured to the top level. Maybe this is where the vast number of participants in the World Game comes in. We have the quantity and through improved coaching we are able to encourage and bring out the quality.

Another benefit arises for smart coaches and former players to run schools to help develop the latent talent. With a businesslike approach it is possible to earn a living for the first time from coaching outside of club involvement.

With NSW at last introducing an Institute of Sport, which caters for males as well as females, positions for people to staff this facility have been created.

A group of Soccerroos have produced a coaching video. A childrens story book has emerged. A novel is on sale. These three enterprises are all part of the Soccer industry created here, on our shores.

We are exporting our Soccer talent, coaching is becoming more professional and there are more vacancies being created. Material is being produced. So maybe the game is flying forward into the future.

All we need is for narrow minded and blinkered TV executives to look outside their present confines and to start to afford Association Football the attention it deserves.

The revolution is happening, like it or not. Our game can only move forward into the so called 'mainstream'.

Venables chasing England game



Terry Venables has approached England's Football Association to try to set up a game at Wembley between Australia and the home country.

Graham Kelly, Secretary of the FA, has confirmed that there are two free dates in England's calendar. These dates are apparently between February and June.

Venables' request will be considered by the FA but Glenn Hoddle, the recently appointed England Manager, would have to be involved in discussions.

If the game should come about, it would be the sixth meeting between the two countries but the first in England.



FOUR NATIONS TOURNAMENT

By BOB BROOKS



The Four Nations tournament to be held in January, will be played as double headers in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney.

Games kick off in Melbourne on Saturday January 18th with South Korea playing Norway prior to traditional rivals Australia and New Zealand meeting at Bob Jane Stadium. These will be the first ever international games at the home of South Melbourne Lakers.

Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane on Wednesday January 22 hosts Australia and South Korea. With Norway and

New Zealand, two countries which have fjords and snow fields in common, meeting for the first time.

Saturday January 25 is Sydney's turn. In the modernistic Football Stadium New Zealand take on South Korea prior to Australia and Norway meeting.

Norway were at USA 94 although rated one of the most uninspiring teams on display. Since then a number of their foremost players have moved to England's Premier League. It is believed that Australia will be represented by a mix of European and home based players.



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ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS

KNIGHTS KEEP UP SCORING RECORD

Canberra Cosmos 1

By GRAHAM COOKE

Sydney United 3

Veteran defender Velimir Kupresak played with a rib injury heavily strapped as he piloted Sydney United to a 3-1 win over the Ericsson Cup's bottom club Canberra Cosmos at Bruce Stadium on Saturday night.

Kupresak turned in a near faultless display with a series of important tackles coupled with outstanding ball distribution.

However, United coach Branko Culina said his side had not played well.

"We made it hard for ourselves," he said.

"Mark Babic was having dizzy spells and had to come off at half time and there was a lot of reshuffling to do.

"But when all is said and done it's nice to play badly

and come away with the points."

Cosmos took the lead after 25 minutes through a fine goal engineered by the persistence of Michael Garcia.

The midfielder went on a penetrating run down the right flank, rode a couple of tackles, and crossed for Paul Dee to crack a rising ball into the roof of the net.

There was an element of good fortune about United's 38th minute equaliser.

Dee was injured in a clash with Kupresak and while the defender lay on the turf the visitors launched a counter attack.

Ante Moric slipped a ball to Ante Milicic, who with the extra space created by the absent Dee, had only to tap

home.

United, beginning to impose itself on the game at last, took the lead on the hour.

Marko Rudan beat team-mate Kupresak to the ball to head home from a corner.

The visitors were reduced to 10 men in the 73rd minute when Robert Enes was sent off.

That proved no more than a minor interruption and David Zdrilic made a fool of the Cosmos defence, back-heeling over the line with everyone, including goal keeper Danny Milosevic, stranded.

Twelve months ago an irritable and defensive Sydney United coach Branko Culina took his team to Canberra's Bruce Stadium in the wake of some highly critical remarks

about the Cosmos' standard of play.

This season it was a much more relaxed and friendly Culina who reviewed his team's 3-1 win over the home side, saying he was disappointed United had not been in top form, "because I would have liked to have shown Canberra people what we can do."

Why the change in attitude? "Increasing age," joked Culina. "But I have realised that if I lose my calm, I can hardly blame my players when they do it."

"You have to lead by example ... also you learn that what looks like the end of the world one day, often does not seem so bad the next morning."



Mark Babic: Had to be taken off with dizzy spells.

Canberra Cosmos:
Milosevic, Dee, Milin, Watson, Garcia, Kelly, Armstrong, Buljan, Koch, Mazis (Lazzari 69), Sorras.

Sydney United:
Kalac, Trajkovski, Kupresak, Babic (Cvetko 46), Enes, Marusic, Moric (Plesa 79), Milicic (Vrkic 88), Zdrilic, Bilokapic, Rudan.

Scorers: Canberra - Dee (25); United - Milicic (38), Rudan (60), Zdrilic (89).
Yellow cards: Canberra - Kelly (22), Armstrong (40), Sorras (82); United - Enes (36), Trajkovski (84).
Red card: United - Enes (73).
Crowd: 2,750.
Referee: W Dade.
POY: 3-Kupresak (SU).

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ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS

WOLLONGONG HOLD OUT OLYMPIC

UTS Olympic 1

1

By JOHN ECONOMOS

Wollongong City 1

1

Two goals in the first session, both scored in stoppage time and seconds apart, proved to be the ultimate scoreline as a frustrated Olympic struggled to a 1-1 draw against a very defiant and unified Wollongong City last Sunday night at Belmore Oval.

A disoriented, individualistic and raging Olympic fought furiously over the last 20 minutes trying to break the deadlock. However the Wolves held firm inspired by goalkeeper Brett Hughes and free-back Jason Connolly.

Seconds into stoppage time of the first half, it was Wollongong who hit the lead. Sonny Sevin chipped forward to Matt Horsley who raced to

the bi-line from where he clipped a short cross to the first post. Connolly dutifully swept it into the target. to draw first blood.

No sooner had Wollongong finished celebrating their goal, than at the other end Olympic's Norman Tome climbed well to head a precision Abbas Saad cross, from the right, into the frame to quickly 'balance the books'.

The 13th minute proved unlucky for Olympic's Saad as he met a Tome cross fired in from the right. He got up well to hit a magnificent on-target glancing header but Wollongong's alert Hughes read the danger well and on a full stretch made an incredible save to deny Saad.

In the 37th, Wollongong's Horsley raided strongly to beat two defenders down the right. His flat cross to the back post saw fellow striker Ljupco Naumovski lose his balance inside the goal area and he just failed to guide it home.

Until the two goals the first session was disappointing. Four minutes after the break Olympic's skipper Davie Barrett combined with striker Kris Trajanovski to set up Tome for a chance at goal, but the latter from an acute angle blasted wide of the far post.

A frustrated Olympic from midway through the second half launched into a hit or miss mode, belting long hopeful balls upfield for their strike trio.

With Wollongong

retreating, their midfielders much deeper, Olympic's ball-playing sweeper Milan Blagojevic, pushed into the centre-line with left-back Adam Ciantar taking over the home side's role of free-back.

In the 73rd Saad found himself one-on-one with Hughes, the Wollongong custodian made a magnificent one handed save to keep Saad out.

With three minutes left, Meredith crossed deep into the box for Blagojevic to head on target but Hughes palmed the danger onto the crossbar.

A very jubilant Nick Theodorakopoulos, Wollongong's coach, later reflected: "I'm extremely happy, very happy, because we came here tonight and got what we were

UTS Olympic:
Franken: Barrett, Baillie, Blagojevic, Ciantar, Emerton (Bove 82), Ardone (Meredith 56), Tsekenis: Tome (Augerinos 72), Trajanovski, Saad.

Wollongong City:
Hughes: Van Egmond, Ceccoli, Connolly, Horsley, Sevin, Bourke (Lloyd 72), Hurlock, Naumovski (Chipperfield 68), Perinich (Joskeski 56), Reda.

after. The last 20 minutes we tired and conceded space by pulling back to just defend and hang on.

"That was our 11th second

Scorers: Olympic: Tome (45). Wolves: Connolly (45).
Yellow Cards: Olympic: Ardone (26). Wolves: Ceccoli (48, 89), Reda (79).
Red Card: Ceccoli (89).

Referee: S. Micallef.
Crowd: 6,222.
POY: 3-Hughes (WC), 2-Saad (UO), 1-Connolly (WC).



Brett Hughes: Brilliant display between the posts for Wollongong.

KNIGHTS RETURN TO WINNERS CIRCLE

Melbourne Knights 2

2

By DWYGH TUFFNELL

Newcastle Breakers 0

0

Melbourne Knights finally broke through for their second win of the season with a 2-0 triumph over Newcastle Breakers on Friday night.

Two goals in the second half sealed the win for the Knights, who before the game were sitting second bottom on the table.

The Breakers couldn't manage a shot at goal until the hour mark and only tested first game 'keeper' John Didulica, well into stoppage time at the end of the game.

Scoring problems for the

Knights continued in the first half with only Andrew Marth looking like grabbing a goal. He nearly did so in the 36th minute with a fierce 30 metre free kick that struck the outside off the post.

The Knights had missed good chances before that, Ransford Banini most notably when he blazed wide with an open goal gaping after Breakers 'keeper Liam Baker and Ice Kutlesovski contested a high ball.

Joe Simunic, subject of a possible transfer to A.C.Milan, scored his first

goal for the club two minutes into the second half. Glen Moore tugged the shirt of Kutlesovski just outside the area and Simunic curled the ball beyond the wall and inside the post.

The second goal arrived in the 63rd minute to seal the game for the relieved Knights. David Cervinski found Marth who volley across the goal area to Kutlesovski who finished the move off with a neat diving header.

"It was deserved, it really was," said Knights coach Ian Dobson after the game.

"While it was still 1-0 there's always a chance that they're going to get back somewhere and create problems for us." Injuries remain a problem for the Knights.

Ivan Duzel had to be replaced shortly before half time with a pulled hamstring and Kutlesovski and Banini came out of the game with some bad knocks.

"The team itself is starting to take shape but I just hope we can get around some of these injuries we're picking up," concluded Dobson.

Knights: Didulica, D.Cervinski, Z.Markovski, Marth, Simunic, Lapsansky (Kovacevic 82), Kutlesovski, Trupkovic (J.Markovski 76), D.Pondeljak, Duzel (Vojtek 41), Banini.

Breakers: Baker, Sprod (Austin 83), Moore, Ritchie (Pryce 76), Ironside, Zane, Halpine, McManuse, M.Wilson (Thomas 71), Sharpely, James.

Scorers: Simunic (47), Kutlesovski (63).
Yellow Cards: Knights: Marth (10). Breakers: Halpin (30), Moore (42), Sharpely (12), Sprod (51).

Red Cards: Breakers: Halpine (89).
Referee: C. Diomis.
POY: 3-Marth (MK), 2-Banini (MK), 1-D.Cervinski (MK).



Andrew Marth: Man of the match performance from Knights captain.

TOBIN GIVES PERTH A BIRTHDAY GIFT

Perth Glory 2

2

By RICHARD KREIDER

Adelaide City 1

1

Perth Glory were one year old last Sunday, and they celebrated at Perth Oval in thrilling fashion with a last gasp victory over Adelaide City.

A crowd of 9765, the weekend's largest attendance, spurred on the birthday boys to a stirring 2-1 win and a top-six spot in the Ericsson Cup standings.

Up until the weekend's clash, the Zebras had only conceded a miserly four goals in seven games, compared to Glories sizeable tally of fifteen.

And it didn't look like there would any change to this, especially when Socceroo

stopper Alex Tobin decided to play a superb Captain's role alongside Brad Armour, Milan Ivanovic and Angelo Costanzo, on top of scoring a 38th minute goal.

But Tobin's performance soured dramatically in the closing seconds when an untimely blunder, enabled Perth to seal maximum points.

"Soccer is a cruel game sometimes," said Zebras boss John Nyskohous. "We got burnt with a soft goal from a corner, and then Alex slipped over. All in all we busted our guts and got nothing for it."

The game kicked off and continued at a hectic pace for most of the first-half. Paul

Strudwick was given the first scoring opportunity of the game in the 11th minute courtesy of a delightful through ball from Gareth Naven, but his stinging left foot strike was well saved by Petkovic. Adelaide retaliated in the 24th minute when John Gibson lined up Brad Armour on goal, but the overlapping defender sent his left foot effort high over Tom Maras's cross-bar.

The visitors were dealt a blow two minutes further on when the hard working Bradley Hassell limped off with a hamstring injury. The anguish of his premature departure subsided when

Tobin put the visitors ahead from a Gibson corner. It was a goal that once again exposed the vulnerability of the Glory defence in set-pieces around their danger zone.

In the 54th minute, Glory had their best equalising opportunity when given a free-kick right on the front of the goal area. And it looked a certain goal when Gareth Naven's shot collected a deflection off the City wall, but Jason Petkovic, Socceroo goalie, raised a groan of despair from the crowd with a sensational reflex save.

Bobby Despotovski was next to test Petkovic with a powerful 77th minute header,

but again the 'keeper saved brilliantly, which Despotovski acknowledged with applause and a hand-shake.

But Perth finally broke through in the 84th minute in near identical fashion to the visitors goal, when Gavin Wilkinson headed a Gareth Naven corner home at the far post.

Just when a drawn result seemed the likely outcome, Glory secured maximum points in the last seconds of play, when Despotovski drilled home a gift ball after Tobin lost his footing whilst attempting to intercept a Strudwick centre.

Perth Glory: Maras, Naven, Wilkinson, Buljubasic, Naven, Miller, McVittie, Despotovski, Kalogeracos (Beretovac 76), Wingell, Strudwick.

Adelaide City: Petkovic, Armour, Ivanovic, Tobin, Costanzo, Hassell (Brooks 26), Mennillo, Gibson, Musitano, Brazzale, Salapaidis (Yates 82).

Scorers: Perth Glory - Wilkinson (84), Despotovski (90). Adelaide City: Tobin (38).

Yellow Cards: Perth Glory - Wilkinson (23), Miller (56), McVittie (64), Adelaide City: Salapaidis (11), Brazzale (21).
Referee: E. Lennie.
Crowd: 9,765.
Player of the Year: Tobin (AC), 3-Petkovic (AC), 2-Miller (PG).

ENTERTAINING GOAL-LESS DRAW IN ADELAIDE

West Adelaide 0

0

By PETER KRUPKA

Brisbane Strikers 0

0

West Adelaide was left regretting a catalogue of missed chances in an entertaining 0-0 draw against the unbeaten Brisbane Strikers in their Ericsson Cup match at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday.

West dominated the match and could have been up by

four goals at half time had their finishing been sharper.

The result left Sydney United two points clear at the top of the ladder, with second placed Brisbane delighted to take a point from a match in which their scoring guns went missing and their defence was under constant fire.

West's Nathan Day, whose

goal scoring touch has deserted him this season, had the best chance to open the account in the first period when he waltzed past two defenders but skied his shot over the crossbar.

The midfielder went to his knees in horror at the miss and almost did again at the 30 minute mark when he

slammed another shot wide.

Rookie striker Andrew Borghetto had the last chance to end Brisbane's undefeated season 12 minutes from time when he won the ball on the right wing and ran into a one-on-one with Brisbane keeper Clint Bolton who saved the shot from a tight angle.

Fellow striker Jim Tsekinis

was the live wire for the home side setting up plenty of chances through the match.

Borghetto cut back a brilliant ball for Tsekinis in the 26th minute but the shot, which beat Bolton, dribbled to safety off the far post.

Alex Castro was presented with a similar chance for West courtesy of a cut back pass

from Tsekinis but his shot deflected

from the feet of a Brisbane player just wide of the post.

Brisbane also had its chance. Striker Rod Brown ran onto a perfect cross from Sean Cranney to head the ball goalwards but West 'keeper Nathan Wildy reacted brilliantly from close range to

block the shot.

Cranney provided a headache for the West defence, which had to do without captain Robbie Hooker, who played the role as a central midfielder to give his side the spark it lacked in recent weeks.

Continued on next page...

ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS

MARCONI FAIL AT HOME AGAIN

Marconi Fairfield 0

By JOHN ECONOMOS

South Melbourne 1

Marconi's tale of woes agonisingly continued last Saturday night at Marconi Stadium. They still remain without a home win going down 1-0 to visiting South Melbourne in a match highlighted by the vastly contrasting roles played by the two captains.

Marconi's luckless skipper and last season's top marksman, Andy Harper yet again was denied goals by striking the woodwork in the 38th and 40th minutes. The Victorian's captain Paul Trimboli scored with his sole strike well into stoppage time. This gained the three lifesaving League points for the also struggling Souths, giving them only their second win of the season.

Marconi should have had the match almost wrapped up in the first session but again played totally without luck to

now find themselves hurtling down the League ladder.

Manfred Schaefer, Marconi's boss, solemnly stated after the match, "The ball just won't go in for us. I believe we dominated especially in the first session. Our luck just has to change as the commitment and intensity was all there but not the goals."

Marconi's luckless streak surfaced yet again as early as in the ninth minute when playmaker Vlado Zoric set up left wing-back Brendan Renaud for a 12 metre strike that sailed just over Michael Petkovic's cross bar. Then Harper's first miss was when his angled left footed drive from the left cannoned off the base of the far post and ricocheted along the goal line to roll out.

Five minutes before the break the luckless Harper

again was denied when climbing high to meet a Luke Casserly corner. His crashing header rocked the horizontal. Harper should be renamed "the carpenter" as he has now hit the woodwork six times so far this season.

But ironically a very patient Souths could have grabbed the lead in the 26th minute when the lanky left midfielder David Clarkson, from a sharp angle on the left, blasted well on target but a diving Bobby Catlin made a magnificent left gloved stop before gathering the ball in.

South's dynamic left back, Fausto De Amicis raided forward strongly in the 71st minute to unleash a rocketing drive from 25 metres that clipped Marconi's horizontal and flew out of danger.

The Lakers coach, Angie Postecoglou then made an astute substitution when he

took off striker Warren Spink in the 83rd minute and brought on Youth international, Michael Curcija. The talented youngster six minutes later set up the winner when from the left of the box he brilliantly rolled the ball back onto his right boot to simultaneously beat an off-balanced covering defender Paul Souris and cross just outside the goal area for the magnificent Paul Trimboli to slam a side footed flat volley into the target.

The 27 year old Trimboli joyously stated after the match, "Angie had instructed us to be patient, play it very tight at the back and hope to steal a late goal for a win. That's exactly what happened, amazing!"

A much relieved and previously starved for points, Postecoglou, later evaluated: "We started off well but tired



Paul Trimboli: Played skipper's role, scored only goal

later as they were getting the chances, but I always fancied us to win this one by pinching a goal very late."

Best performers for Marconi were Paul Souris, Bobby Catlin and Craig Foster whilst the victors were best served by the highly experienced lateral defender, Alex Kuzmanovic, De Amicis and of their brilliant, Paul Trimboli.

Marconi: Catlin; Casserly, Longo, Souris, Bingley, Renaud; Foster, Ravennello, Zoric (Hristodolou 86); Harper, Awaritife (Stanton 74).

South Melbourne: Petkovic; Panopoulos, Orlic, Blatsis, Kuzmanovic, De Amicis; Damianos, Clarkson; Coveny, Trimboli, Spink (Curcija 85).

Scorers: South Melbourne: Trimboli (89). Yellow Cards: Marconi: Souris (80), Renaud (81). South Melbourne: Blatsis (69), Coveny (89) and Curcija (90). Referee: B Hugo. Crowd: 4,972.



FALCONS DEFEAT WARRIORS

By DWYGH TUFFNELL

Collingwood Warriors 0 Gippsland Falcons 1

Gippsland Falcons ended Collingwood Warriors unbeaten run with a 1-0 win at Victoria Park on Sunday.

A Eddie Krncevic goal in the 12th minute guided the Falcons to their second win of the season.

Gippsland were the better side all day as their height advantage was too much for their

Collingwood counterparts in the trying conditions. Alex Duric, Krncevic, Nick Palamaras and Steve Mangos all revelled on a slippery pitch that made good play nearly impossible.

Palamaras underlined the danger that he posed in Gippsland's winning goal.

Doug Marcina's floated corner was headed goalbound by the unmarked sweeper only to have Kimon Taliadoros clear it off the line. Palamaras followed up

through and headed it back into the centre where Krncevic stabbed the ball into the net.

Collingwood could have already been a goal up by then. Andy Vlahos shot just wide after a good build up involving Ernie Tapai and Brian MacNicol. Vlahos had an even easier chance shortly after Krncevic had given the Falcons the lead.

MacNicol again, was the provider. After a lucky rebound off Palamaras, he squared the ball for Vlahos but with just Jim Kourtis to beat from eight meters, he sprayed the ball wide.

That was the only threat that Vlahos and his Warriors team mates made on the Gippsland goal until the 71st minute.

Vlahos wasn't given another touch of the ball after that with Clayton Bell

shutting him down completely. Bell was easily Gippsland's best player, not only in keeping Vlahos quiet, but he made significant contributions further in the field.

Duric threatened a couple of times before half time, combined well with strike partner Krncevic. Krncevic nearly made a perfect start to the second half when he turned Alan Scott inside the area and crossed dangerously into the centre where Tapai had to make a clearance.

Warriors skipper Taliadoros should have equalised in the 71st minute. He skipped through the Falcons defence but when faced with Kourtis he could only shoot wide.

Falcons coach Frank Arok said that his side could have added to their lone goal. "They

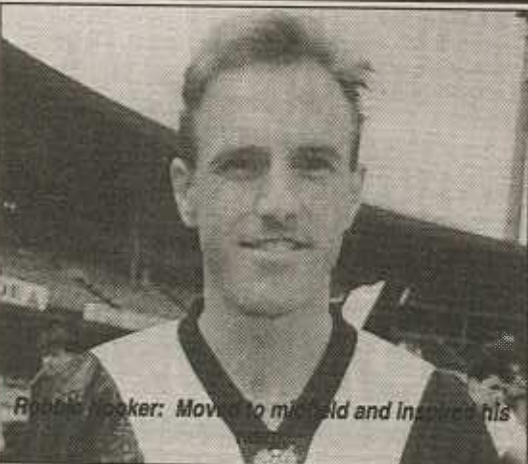
didn't know what hit them. There were so many counter attacks and fast breaks that we could have scored another goal or two."

Bad news for the Falcons comes with an injury to Marcina, who Arok thinks might have a broken leg after a challenge with George Jolevski. Arok said that the win is the result of some hard work and the fact that the team are starting to believe in themselves. "We lost two points against Canberra last week when we should have scored five goals." At least this we capitalised on our aerial supremacy.

Collingwood coach Zoran Matic admitted that his side were set on the back foot. "We were exposed for speed because we had to take the game to them but the defended well." "We certainly

Warriors: Juric Fak Jolevski Scott Ceracchio Talladira Vlahos (Boutsianis 72) Silic Tapai Taliadoros MacNicol. Falcons: Kourtis Marcina (Osman 54) Stergiopoulos Mangos Palamaras Gimenez (Wright 74) Foy Krncevic (Tricarico 70) Duric Bell Hastie. Scorer: Krncevic (12) Yellow Cards: Warriors: Tapai (59) Taliadoros (82) Falcons: Gimenez (3) Osman (62) Wright (82) Referee: Brazzale. Votes: 3-Bell (GF) 2-Duric (GF) 1-Fak (CW) Crowd: 3,110

lack speed in our defence but we can't just sit back and defend or other teams will come at you."



Robbie Hooker: Moved to midfield and inspired his

West Adelaide: Wildy, Thorp, Perin, Slager, Hooker, Castro, Milosevic (Alagich 53), Kokkinoplitis Day, Borghetto, Tsekis.

Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Bell, Hamter, Farina, S Cranney, Brown (Knipe 73), Wright, T Cranney, Battistin (Dillon 45), Brayshaw (Becirbegovic 55), Wehrman.

Yellow cards: West Adelaide: Perin 39, Borghetto 67. Brisbane Strikers: Battistin 28.

Referee: G Connolly Crowd: 3,977 POY: 3-Hooker (WA), 2-Tsekis (WA), 1-Wildy (WA)

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Continued from previous page...

Hooker did give West's midfield a lift and it appeared only a matter of time before the Strikers would concede a goal and record their first loss for the season. But Brisbane's defence held firm against the torrent, proving it has the makings of a championship winning team.



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Coaches for export?

Dear Sir,
I must say that I am in two minds about the appointment of Terry Venables as our national coach for the period leading up to the World Cup.

On one hand, I can understand the thinking behind the move made by Soccer Australia chairman David Hill.

At a time when our game needs all the positive publication it can get he has obviously decided that we need a world-class name to head us to international success.

There has never been a better opportunity for our game to take a giant step toward gaining a marketing advantage over the code of rugby league which is undergoing unprecedented turmoil and almost daily shooting itself in the foot.

The appointment of Venables has gained an enormous amount of media coverage, both in print and electronically, and this has resulted in a wide range of comments about the progress we have been making in terms of playing and coaching quality.

It is not very long ago that we were reading and hearing about the controversial importing of one Malcolm Reilly to coach Newcastle in the Rugby League, publicity which could not have been bought at any price.

There can be no doubt that Venables' presence will attract more people to games when the Socceroos play at home.

Some of these will be supporting him and others will want to see him fail.

Whatever the outcome, the exercise will be a marketing success through the generation of extra dollars at the gate, perhaps even to pay for itself.

On the other hand, this appointment points to failure of the National Coaching Scheme to produce a coach deemed by the officialdom at Soccer Australia to be worthy of guiding our national team.

I have never been a fan of the style of play adopted by Eddie Thomson, Les Scheinflug or Raul Blanco but they all learned some coaching craft in Australia under the National Coaching scheme, something which cannot be said of their predecessors such as Arok Shoulder, Green or Gutendrof and company.

Soccer Australia was on the right track when they appointed coaches who knew and understand the Australian game but now they have strayed from the path.

Much has been made of the success of so many young Aussies at the top level of the game in Britain and Europe but it has rarely, if ever, been made clear that these youngsters learned to play under the guidance of coaches here in Australia at about junior and senior level.

While the players are being given a pat on the back, it seems that coaching in Australia has been given a giant kick in the backside.

There was of course, a simple compromise between those interested in making the game and those who back the local coaches.

That is to appoint an assistant coach for Mr Venables and groom that coach through the World Cup qualifiers (and hopefully the World Cup Finals) to take over the role at the end of Venables tenure.

For example, young coaches such as David Ratcliffe, Steve O'Connor or Hugh McCarty (among others) could be co-opted and gain valuable on-the-job experience, without the responsibility, under the guidance of a man considered to be one of the best coaches in the World.

Who knows, we may even end up with a coach we can export to the rest of the World, when his job is finished here of course.

Barry Davis
MACQUARIE FIELDS 2564

LET VIEWERS HAVE OWN OPINIONS

Dear Sir,
I and a few of my friends in the last twelve months have slowly come to the realisation that Johnny Warren and Les Murray who call themselves "gurus" of the world game are in fact narrow minded, ill informed spectators who really are only interested in their own short term survival in the commercial world of sport.

Anyone who ever watches "On The Ball" or "Soccer on Monday" must realise that when Johnny Warren spends five minutes lambasting Hill plus Venables on "that" appointment and then also asks viewers to show their approval or disapproval of the appointment, you are going to get a majority of people siding with Johnny's opinion — basically because they're not given the facts just an opinion.

Think about it, they're telling you who you should vote for, and inferring how you should vote. This isn't

constructive, objective criticism. This is controlled manipulation putting viewers aside to their point of view and not allowing for free thinking.

Les Murray's editorial on "On The Ball" on Sunday 24th November, was a mish mash of verbal histrionics meant to appeal. He said soccer in this country was more than a sport grappling with an identity crisis, it was fragmented and divisive with the only true uniting force being the Socceroos. If they made it to France '98 and performed well only Venables would be remembered, an Englishman not an Australian, and hence the chance to further enhance the game to all Australians would be lost. Nice try Les, but what are you telling me?

The game should still flounder along being divided and fragmented as long as we have an Australian coach who has experienced all this

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



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Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

What is an Australian?

Dear Sir
My understanding is that an Australian is:

• A person who was born in Australia, or,

• A person who took on Australian citizenship, (born outside, but chose to make Australia a new home).

According to Mr. David Hill we do not have a single soccer coach who was born in Australia. All the coaches we have here were born overseas and they have brought their overseas experience with them to Australia. I guess what Mr Hill is trying to say is that UNLESS YOU ARE BORN IN AUSTRALIA, YOU ARE NOT AN AUSTRALIAN.

Well Mr Hill, I was born overseas and, I am an Australian. Most of the coaches are also Australians.

Although he is a good coach you are kidding your self when you say that Mr Venables was the best available, unless of course he is the only one you had in mind from the start.

Given a chance and a smaller salary, a local coach could gain a higher profile by coaching the best players who are representing their country but that will not happen while you are in charge, will it Mr. Hill? What chance does an Australian coach have to gain that profile with someone of your double standards? Did

you not, Mr. Hill just say that we should make soccer in this country more Australianised? What is the next step Mr. Hill get rid of all NON AUSTRALIAN born players, coaches and administrators and replace them with someone of your choice?

P.S. Congratulations to Tonci Prusac, for the letter in ABSW (19/11/96), bowling over M. Meyer and other people, who believe that the Melbourne Knights and Sydney United have never been interested in Australian soccer.

Michael Naraj
KINGS LANGLEY, NSW.

El Tel-epathy

Dear Sir,
Forgive me for being one of these critics of David Hill's EL TEL (-EPATHY) coach who he has been labelled a sixties and seventies discard. Perhaps SA's new age nineties maestro can explain a few things to the simpleton (so called).

While no one can deny EL TEL's ability to generate publicity and controversy wherever he goes like few others in World Football how will he be able to maintain this high powered profile if he is only going to be in Australia for three to four months a year?

No doubt the EL TEL factor will initially generate increased crowds at Socceroo matches but will the notoriously fickle and demanding Oz soccer public maintain the interest if the Socceroos fail to perform up

fragmentation and realises how important it is that we all unite under the banner of the Socceroos and everything will be alright.

You see the trouble is Les and Johnny, have had it too good for too long in their cushy jobs and its about time they put up or shut up. If they can do a better job than David Hill then its about time they put their hands up and became involved. I doubt they could though, they've become too involved with their own kind. Clubs with ethnic identities, supporters and committees have been their bread and butter — they haven't really become involved with the grass roots of the sport.

There they would see a vast majority of people who have been neglected and become soccer illiterate without local teams to follow, without

to expectations consistently. If history is any guide, definitely not, EL TEL regardless.

It is most interesting that of all the media comments in Oz on the decision those in favour are predominantly made up of people with little or no standing in Oz soccer circles but those doubters are predominantly people with real standing and knowledge in Oz soccer circles. Comparisons with what Jack Charlton achieved with the Irish football team are grossly misleading because Charlton was a full time manager with no other major business for football interest.

Even if everything works out for the good it would still be seen to be the most expensive way to achieve what is a very attainable target qualification for France '98. Sponsors and crowds will

purpose and hence without any knowledge, love or respect for the sport. If Johnny and Les have had a part to play in this, then they must take part of the blame — don't go blaming Hill or Venables, they are just newcomers to their jobs.

I believe you have a responsibility to give precise, correct and unbiased information to the viewers and let them decide their own opinions for themselves. Hopefully you will show a more responsible attitude to decisions taken by Soccer Australia as you said Les, they are there to administer the game — you're not. So bite the bullet, swallow your pride, put the dummy back in and stop bitching.

P.S. To Les and Johnny — I've heard the producers of the new film 'Grumpiest Old

always eagerly support a successful Socceroo team providing they play good football whoever the coach is and that's the crux of the matter. The right sort of result on the field is the key after that the rest is the easy part.

Cynics can console themselves that even in worst case outcome Oz soccer will somehow survive. After all, it survived over 20 years of hard labour under Sir Arthur George and his cohorts and regardless of the damage Hill and Co may cause they are only short term participants in Oz soccer.

Meanwhile all the beneficiaries of the EL TEL (EPATHY) gravy train are hoping it will run into course successfully and profitably.

Lost in the Sixties & seventies.

R Melor,
BONDI NSW.

Men' are looking for two new stars — I suggest you apply.

Stephen Predry,
MEREWETHER, NSW. 2291

DEAD WOOD

Dear Sir,
Who the hell does Les Murray think he is that he can use his TV show to put forward such personal and biased opinions?

Les is no more than a TV presenter whose job is to present FACTS, and that, is all the comments that we the viewers want to hear from him regarding the appointment of Terry Venables.

It borders on arrogance for a TV presenter to use his TV show to try and alter a national Soccer policy which was carried out by an officially appointed governing body.

His opinion should be restricted to the various merits of players and teams seen performing on his otherwise excellent TV programme. Les Murray should not forget his place which is a reporter not administrator.

This type of emotional 'uncontrolled verbal diarrhoea' from a so-called

'expert', illustrates the total amateurishness of some people who should be demonstrating a professional attitude.

Unless of course Les and John Warren have worked out a subtle, devious ploy on how to get rid of Mr. Venables. When the man who has coached the world's biggest football club, in ANY code, Barcelona, sees the dead wood otherwise known as "the old guard", that unfortunately still has a stranglehold on the soccer scene here, he may just decide to hop on the first plane back to Heathrow and cancel his contract forthwith.

ABSW seems to be one of the few voices in our game to have grasped the reality of the present situation, which is that our senior international team is no longer based in Australia, but 20,000 kilometres away in various parts of Europe.

Dave Winter
DEE WHY, NSW

Dear, Mr. Hill

Dear Sir,
Mr D. Hill is, has been and will ever be a controversial figure, who is at odds with logic. Just a pure psychopath.

Somebody must tell to him; Australia is not an extension of England! As a Soccer Nation we have matured a long time ago, the proof is many players are playing overseas.

Mr D. Hill would not

recommend a local coach, with the National Soccer coach position, the miserable villain had to go overseas to choose one!

I know it will never happen — I am really sorry but it would be nice, if the Soccer players would boycott Mr Venables as the police force try to do it, to another pommy!

R. Marton
ST MARYS
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THE 'PRIMA DONNA' FACTOR

By HENRY WIZGIER



Mark Bosnich, the British Nine O'clock News, with his gesture.

Many of today's top international footballers are basically 'prima donnas' and the first thing they want to know about a coach is not, how much he knows about the game but, "where did he play at the highest level?". Do you think Aime Jacquet left out Eric Cantona and David Ginola from the French squad for Euro 96 - because he thought they weren't good enough?

His reasons, were given officially as a 'personality clash' which in modern football parlance is translated into "who the hell are YOU to tell the great 'mois', where and how to play?" It is well known that certain French players wanted Michel Platini to lead them into Euro 96 - the only living Frenchman who Cantona can look up to.

Aussies are no different and I believe that players like Paul Okon, Ned Zelic, Mark Bosnich and Aurelio Vidmar, who are now used to breathing the exalted air of the highest level of football that there is in the world, are not going to listen unquestioningly to what someone who plys his trade in the Antipodean equivalent of a part time professional competition is going to tell them what to do. After a few years of hob-nobbing with the over-paid cream of the World Game, they have probably already forgotten who taught them their basic skills. Whatever they might say in public, in the privacy of a training camp they want somebody to look up to not 'down on'.

This is no disrespect to Zoran Matic who may have

the necessary qualities to win the Toyota Cup if given the chance, but that's not how the World Game works today.

The European media still sees Australia as a land of desert and kangaroos where the only sports played are rugby, cricket and some peculiar off-shoot of rugby ('Aussie rules'). It is bound to filter down to the Aussie players themselves. Do you think Okon, Zelic, Bosnich and Vidmar bother to correct that impression by lauding their team mates about the wonders of the Ericsson Cup? That's doubtful. In fact, they probably end up believing the media themselves.

If you think this is an exaggeration then you don't know about the difficulties this newspaper has in getting a response from some of our 'stars' now shining in the Euro Leagues. Whatever they may tell you on their return to Aussie, some of them over there 'don't seem to give a damn' about us anymore.

This, is a new phenomenon in Australian soccer. For the first time ever, we have 'Prima Donnas' and with further due respects to Frank Farina and John Kosmina, they never made the British national nine o'clock news for giving a nazi-salute. They, never played alongside the likes of Bepe Signori, Pierre Luigi Casiraghi and Pavel Nedved. They didn't play very often in the European Cup Competitions.

Australia's one and only true superstar before this recent explosion was Craig Johnstone who scaled the highest peaks of World

Soccer at club level. He now turns his nose up and avoids Aussie Soccer like the plague.

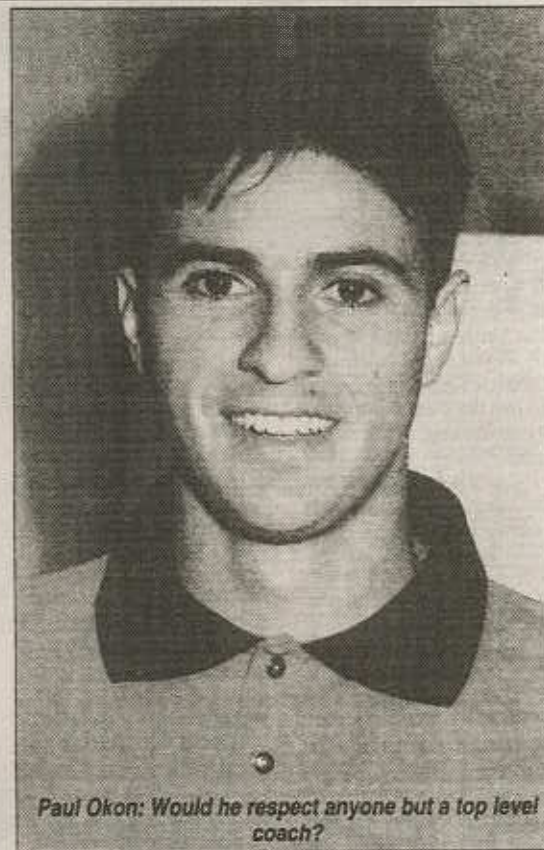
The 'Prima Donna factor' is believed to be the real reason why Arrigo Sacchi's relationship with some of Italy's 'superstars' namely, Roberto Baggio, Vialli and Signori has festered into open and mutual contempt. Despite having built one of the greatest teams ever at Milan, Sacchi is still remembered mostly for the fact that he never played at a high level.

Graham Taylor when he was England's manager, was virtually 'accused' of the same charge. Despite taking Watford from the fourth division to the Premier League runner-up spot and the FA Cup Final, he was constantly reminded that the pinnacle of his playing career had been with Lincoln City.

Of all the reasons why Chairman Hill signed Venables no one has yet suggested the 'prima donna factor' and Hill himself hasn't mentioned it either, because it's not something football administrators talk about openly.

Terry Venables was no Beckenbauer or Cruyff but his playing career was impressive and beyond question. He played for Chelsea and Spurs and along with Bobby Charlton he is the only footballer who has represented England at every level.

If Oz-Tel's Euro based Aussie 'stars' disagree about some of his coaching methods or his tactical ideas, one charge they won't be able level at him is "and who the hell did YOU play for?"



Paul Okon: Would he respect anyone but a top level coach?

Aussies Abroad...

By HENRY WIZGIER

The appointment of 'TV' as Aussie coach seems to have put fireworks into Steve Corica's football boots. A blistering display from the former Stallion was capped by a brace of goals in Wolves 3-2 win at Crystal Palace last week.

Aussies in London, most of who live north of the Thames and follow oval-ball events back home, would have had a feast if they'd bothered to venture across the river into deepest and darkest South London, to witness three out of the five goals scored by fellow compatriots in front of over 20,000.

Carl Veart netted one for Palace who remain second in Division One, six points behind runaway leaders Bolton Wanderers. Corica's Wanderers from Wolverhampton, are well on course for a play-off position, in seventh spot.

There are thousands of Aussies based in London all the time and they even have two free weekly street newspapers published for them, though the sports pages were full of mainly Aussie rules and rugby league. I believe the London-based rugby league club 'London Broncos' playing out of some non-league ground, relies mainly on Aussies for it's meagre support.

These 'footie fans' would get far more entertainment out of following Veart and Muscat at Crystal Palace and Neill and Van Blerk at Millwall.

In the same half of the city, Mark Schwarzer marked his debut for Bradford City at Charlton Athletic by playing a

'blinder', probably hoping that a certain Mr. TV might be in the crowd watching him no doubt!. A 'little birdie' who was at the Valley informed us that Mark Bosnich's place as Australia's number one custodian is now going to be under serious threat if this performance was anything to go by.

Tony Vidmar is in outstanding form for NEC Breda in Holland and his cracking goal following a brilliant run down the left, against no less than Ajax, was shown on 'World Soccer' last week. Shades of Roberto Carlos there.

Breda had another good win, 2-1 against the season's surprise packet Graafschap Doetinchem at the weekend, a club Jason Polak is more than familiar with as he spent a season with them.



Steve Corica: Scored two goals for Wolves against Crystal Palace

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AROUND THE CLUBS

TEAMWORK — THE NAME OF THE GAME

Before the impressive win over Perth Glory, Branco Culina denied that Sydney United were a bit over-reliant on David Zdrilic's finishing prowess, saying the Pumas strength lay in working as an overall team.

"David's bang in form at the moment and possibly grabbing the headlines, but we have a lot of strength in depth. If he hits a bad patch or gets injured, we have other players who can put them away."

Till then, the Pumas in form striker had bagged one third of their seasons total but netted only one quarter of the final toll against the West

Australians, with Kupresak, Marusic and Milicic all getting their names onto the scoresheet.

This is also borne out by the fact that only Tony Popovic ranks highly in the ABSW 'Pasco Vale Player Of The Year' competition, which means that apart from the skipper, there is no particular individual who stands out in every single match. It truly is an all round team effort.

When Terry Venables gets down here, his first look at the domestic competition will surely involve Sydney United as they have a most impressive array of talent.

They look most likely to last the distance compared to

Brisbane Strikers. If that sounds like bias from a Sydneysider, the betting firm SportOdds are prepared to back that opinion with money. They will give you odds of 5 to 2 against the Queenslanders landing their first-ever Title but only 7 to 4 if you want to back United.

But where are the crowds to witness all this entertainment which would have provided them with an average of three goals a game from the Pumas so far? Despite the rain, three thousand four hundred was a poor turn out and small wonder Culina said it would have been nice if Perth could have brought their crowd along with them. The team are

doing their bit, perhaps the promotion side isn't keeping pace. Certainly all the hard work to improve their home ground deserves bigger crowds.



There has been speculation about Manis Lamond's imminent return to Edensor Park, but Culina is holding his cards close to his chest on that one. "Manis is still playing out in Singapore," he stated.

"He is a free agent and we're not quite sure when he plans to return to Australian football."

The guess is that if injuries

and suspensions begin to get a bit of a burden for United, the roving Papuan we may be back in the red shirt before the season is out. Especially as Culina claims that the United squad is down on last year with the loss of 4 players and only 3 replacements.



The loud whispers about Tony Popovic following his ex-national boss Eddie Thomson to Japan are unfounded and appear to be typical rumour mongering, says Branco. Some people had him on his way to Hiroshima



David Zdrilic: His scoring is a feature of the team's success.

KNIGHTS TRANSFER SPITERI TO GRAZ

Joe Spiteri's loan spell at Austrian club Sturm Graz has been made permanent. He has signed a three year contract after the Knights and Sturm Graz agreed on a \$200,000 fee.

This and another injury to Cervinski as well as the loss of Ollie Pondeljak for the season has forced coach Ian Dobson to look for more strikers.

"I think if we could pick up a couple of strikers to give us a bit more depth up front we would go on from here. We're talking to (former coach) Mirko Bazic in Croatia to see if he has any contacts over there."

The Knights are also interested in former Gippsland Falcons striker, Brian Bothwell. He, is tied to Victorian Premier league club, Fawkner, but is currently on loan to Brunei in the Malaysian Cup where they have reached the semi final

stage.

The Knights weren't terribly impressed with the decision to switch the home game against Newcastle Breakers to a Friday night.

"Things like that aren't going too well for us at the moment," Dobson said.

"We had to go to Brisbane and Sydney in the same week, playing two games in six days. These things are happening beyond my control but I've just got to put up with it."

Promising goalkeeper, Joe Didulica, has been given his chance at senior level after an arm injury to Vilson Knezevic. The number one keeper suffered a hairline fracture of the right arm and is expected to be out for three more weeks.

The incident happened against South Melbourne in a clash with the Lakers, Vaughan Coveny. Knezevic though, played on and won

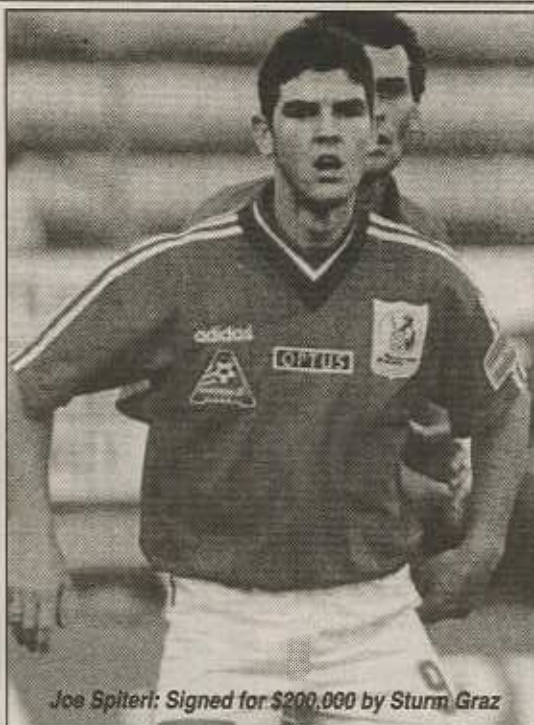
the three votes in our player of the year competition.

Joe Simunic is wanted by Italian champions, AC Milan. A scout from the club is coming to Melbourne to talk to the 18 year old sweeper.

Simunic has also sparked interest from Croatia Zagreb, where Mark Viduka is currently playing but the Knights have recommended that he does not join the Croatian club.

Simunic has been embroiled in controversy ever since he pulled out of the Young Socceroo tour to South America for "personal reasons".

It was later revealed that he hadn't decided whether to play for Australia or Croatia and he still hasn't made up his mind, but the Knights have scoffed at suggestions of trying to sway his allegiance to Croatia.



Joe Spiteri: Signed for \$200,000 by Sturm Graz

Davidson rumours denied at Lakers

The Lakers have firmly denied any truth in a report in an Asian newspaper that they have approached Alan Davidson as their player-coach.

The article, which appeared in highly respected Singapore newspaper, 'The Straits Times', claimed that Davidson has been wooed by two Melbourne clubs, one of them South Melbourne.

According to the report, Davidson has been offered \$5,000 a month to take the job at Lakeside although it also says he wants to take up a position in the new S-League in Singapore. Davidson it says, would not take the job for anything less than \$6,000 a month.

The same reports says that recently returned striker, Ivan Kelic, would have liked to have stayed in Singapore.

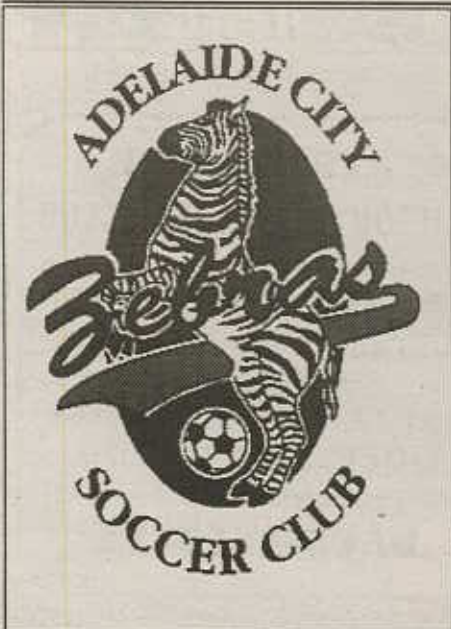
*Poor showing from Melbourne Knights on the Friday before the big game at the Lakeside Stadium. The Lakers planned a press conference (as they do every Friday before a home game) but the Knights, who were invited, did not attend.



Mike Petersen: Soon to return to first team duty.

South had wanted Ian Dobson and Andrew Marth to come and all was arranged until about half an hour before the conference was to begin, but the two pulled out at the last minute, pity.

*Mike Petersen isn't too far away from making a return to first team action. He played a half in a youth league game recently and by all accounts came through the experience well.



AROUND THE CLUBS

STAR PROFILE

Gareth Naven



Date of Birth: March 3, 1969
Birthplace: Wigan, England
Previous Clubs: Perth Italia, Adelaide City
Current Club: Perth Glory
Current Position: Central midfielder
Nick Name: None
Marital Status: Married to Natalie
Occupation: Manager with Cash Converters
Most Difficult Opponent: All of them
Favourite Overseas Player: Del Piero (Striker with Juventus)
Favourite Overseas Club: A.C. Milan
What must Australia do to qualify for the next World Cup: Win games
What qualities make a good coach: Have excellent communication skills
Honours: W.A. State team
Ambitions for 1996: For Perth Glory to be successful in its first season in the Ericsson League
Ambitions After Retiring: Probably to coach somewhere with the juniors
Most Memorable Moment: Playing against German side Werder Bremen
Hobbies outside Soccer: Soccer
Best goal you've seen scored: Vinko Buljubasic's (Glory's sweeper) at training
Favourite Food: Chicken Treat
Favourite Drink: Powerade
Car you drive: Commodore Utility
Favourite TV Show: X-Files
TV Show you refuse to watch: Home and Away
Favourite Movie: Shan Shark Redemption
Favourite Actor: Clint Eastwood
Preferred Music: Anything except Techno
Least Preferred Music: Techno
Favourite Comedian: Benny Hill
Pet Hates: People that annoy me before a game
Special advice to Young Players: Make sure you enjoy Soccer and life as well
Person you would Most Like to Meet: Mel Gibson and Maradona

WOLVES ODDS SHORTEN

By PHIL MURPHY

A syndicate of Wollongong City supporters who backed their team at 80-1 (each way) for the championship at the start of the season are confident of collecting. They will get 20-1 if the Wolves finish in the top four and coach Nick Theodorakopoulos is tipping that it will happen.

After beating Marconi 3-2, the Wollongong team firmed sharply in the betting. They were being quoted at 25-1 to take the title.

Theodorakopoulos said he rated his side a very good chance of making the playoffs.

"If we get into the top four and the supporters have a good win all the better," the coach said.

"The signs have been there from the first game we played and this is a very good team. Good judges are commenting on our style of play and that win against Marconi was typical of what the boys are capable of.

"It is all about team work but I have to comment on how well the three boys at the back are performing." Theodorakopoulos was referring to sweeper Jason Connelly and markers Alvin Ceccolli and Gary van Egmond.

Ceccolli was at Brandon Park last season and made an immediate impact operating wide on the left. The change

of position was a challenge to him but he is having a superb season. His tackling is very good, he is quick and has a great left foot when he gets forward.

Connelly arrived at Brandon Park from Blacktown City after he had given up hope of ever making it into the Ericsson Cup.

Van Egmond is probably the "icing on the cake" as far as Theodorakopoulos is concerned. After seven successful years at Marconi, he is enjoying his football with the Wolves and beating his old club last week was one of the highlights of Van Egmond's career. The coach believes Van Egmond will prove to be the best buy the Wolves have made for a long time saying his experience would be a vital factor as the season progressed.

"He is already very popular with the younger players and they are learning a lot from him," Theodorakopoulos said. "Even at training, he is giving encouragement to the kids."

Michael Reda received a mixed reaction from the Brandon Park supporters but won them over with his performance against Marconi. Reda can be a class act and he is capable of creating goals from nothing.

His midfield partner, Sonny Sevin, has settled down well in the centre of midfield having previously



Garry Van Egmond: coach believes he is best buy in a long time.

made his mark out wide on the right with Morwell, but Theodorakopoulos has Matt Horsley operating in that position. Sevin was another to perform well against Marconi but he was forced to leave the field with an injury.

On Friday, the Wolves are at home to West Adelaide and must win to keep the momentum going. That momentum is bringing in the crowds with 5,518 fans packing Brandon Park for the Marconi game.

One of the pre-match attractions will be hypnotist Gary Spelman who will hop out of a helicopter and select two spectators to hypnotise.

Carlton want to be best

By DWYGH TUFFNELL

The introduction of the Carlton Soccer Club into the Ericsson Cup, will "shake up soccer in Australia."

These were the words of Soccer Australia chairman, David Hill at the new club's launch and membership drive.

Hill, and around three hundred other guests, could only be impressed by what Carlton have already achieved, and promised to do when they join the league next season.

"We have no doubt that this initiative will be a success," Hill went on to say.

"The name Carlton is synonymous with style and success."

Carlton has yet to gain a major sponsor but expects to name one in the next few weeks.

The club has, however, named sporting giants, Nike, as their kit sponsor for four years. This is reported to be

worth near \$1 million.

Nike will do much more for the club than just supply their strips and tracksuits.

They have promised, in each year of their initial tenure, to bring out another Nike sponsored team from overseas such as Arsenal, Borussia Dortmund, PSV Eindhoven or Auxerre for a lucrative international match at Carlton's home, Optus Oval.

Despite its association with the AFL club, Carlton SC will be self funding and will rely heavily on memberships.

They have a Foundation Membership, limited to 1,000 people.

For \$1,000 each these people will become life members of the club and also have a personal seat in the grandstand forever.

The forming of the club hasn't just been on a whim.

"It's taken some time to come about. We've been thinking about it for four years," said club marketing

and administration manager Athol Hodgetts.

"We see soccer as a game that will boom in the next few years."

Former Socceroo goalkeeper, Jack Reilly is one of the directors named by the club.

The three others are John Valmorbidia, Robert Shannon and Lou Sticca.

Sticca, says the club, is the man responsible for the getting the idea off the ground.

Carlton Football Club president, John Elliott, also spoke at the launch.

"We are very keen to see soccer succeed here and are determined to see the Carlton Soccer Club strong."

"We don't want to do anything that isn't going to be successful."

"We're not prepared to be second, third or fourth best."

"We want to be the best."

STAR PROFILE

Craig Naven



Date of Birth: March 3, 1969
Birthplace: Wigan, England
Previous Clubs: Sarawak Malaysia with Alan Vest, Perth Italia and Perth Kangaroos
Current Club: Perth Glory
Current Position: Right back, centre back or sweeper
Nick Name: Naves
Marital Status: Married to Tania, have daughter Lauren 2 1/2 years
Occupation: Internal sales Denso Australia (manufacturers of anti corrosion tapes)
Best Aspect of your Game: Ability to play in various positions
Most Difficult Opponent: Able to tell you at the end of the season
Favourite Overseas Player: Lothar Matthaus
Favourite Overseas Club: A.C. Milan
What must Australia do to qualify for the next World Cup: Win all her matches
What qualities make a good coach: Good discipline, high standards in training, and an ability to adjust quickly to circumstances
Honours: 1987 World Youth Squad
Ambitions for 1996: Possibly somewhere in coaching
Ambitions After Retiring: To coach somewhere with the juniors
Most Memorable Moment: At last making debut in the Ericsson League with Glory in front of a massive 10,000 crowd
Hobbies outside Soccer: Gardening and listening to Frank Sinatra
Best goal you've seen scored: Too many to list here
Favourite Food: Anything Tania (wife) cooks for me
Favourite Drink: Shandy
Car you drive: Mazda 121 (Bubble)
Favourite TV Show: ABC Soccer
TV Show you refuse to watch: Nil
Favourite Movie: Any Clint Eastwood movies, 'Private Detective' Parts 1 and 2 — they're classics
Pet Hates: Nil
Special advice to Young Players: Listen to people who are trying to help with your progress, be confident and train really hard
Person you would Most Like to Meet: Lothar Matthaus

AROUND THE CLUBS

Breakers Captain hopes to resume soon

By DANE SKAFTE

Newcastle Topper Breakers captain David Lowe, knows exactly what it's like watching from the sidelines. Lowe has been out injured for the past two weeks after suffering a hamstring injury. He is expected to resume training later this week.

"I did it just before the South Melbourne match. It is very frustrating watching from the sideline but that's part of playing sport."

Breakers' midfielder, Mark Wilson has made his return to the Newcastle squad after having been out for the past three weeks with a leg injury. Wilson started on the bench last Friday night alongside Mathew Austin and Shane Pryce.

Leading goalscorer, Jason Bennett was dropped

last week for the game against Melbourne Knights. Bennett has been suffering a few niggling injuries over the last few matches and coach, John Kosmina has decided to rest him.

"I'm a little bit disappointed but overall I'm happy with my game so far this year. I started on the bench against Collingwood and played the last fifteen minutes, Bennett explained. "Hopefully I will be back this week."

Topper Breakers officials are looking into the parking problem for spectators at Breakers Stadium. The area south of the ground, Balcombes Carpark, is once again being looked at. Use of this area requires Council permission. The Club has submitted an application and are waiting to hear.



Mark Wilson: Back in squad after injury.

The Breakers management realise the inconvenience experienced this season due to the parking problems but hope that patrons will understand it is out of their hands.

ABSW will keep Breakers supporters updated as further information comes to hand.

ZEBRAS KEEPER OFF OVERSEAS?

By LANCE LIBRANDI

Adelaide City goalkeeper Jason Petkovic has a tentative approach from a European agent, acting on behalf of a yet un-named Portuguese club. The young custodian has had an outstanding season so far, and news of his growing reputation is now reaching overseas shores.

Petkovic has confirmed he would be interested if a firm offer was forthcoming. He has no qualms about moving to Portugal, whose football leagues, he feels, are of a very

high standard. Zebbras coach John Nyskohus said he was not surprised by the overseas interest.

"I certainly don't want to lose Jason, but I'd be happy for him if he could land a contract with a reputable overseas club," he said. Petkovic is contracted to the Zebbras until the end of the season.

A further blow to West Adelaide's Ross Aloisi, who has been prevented from making his Ericsson Cup return yet again. He has been ordered to take another week off by his doctor following

nose surgery for a sinus problem. He will hopefully make his comeback in Round 9 against Woolongong.

Alex Tobin and Michael Musitano from the Zebbras have minor injury worries, but the club expects neither to miss games. Musitano is still regaining fitness after his long lay-off, and coach John Nyskohus hopes he will soon be able to play out a full ninety minutes.

The overseas player City has been negotiating with for some time now has been delayed for various reasons. Nyskohus is losing

patience and has stated if he cannot fly over within the next week, the club would not continue to pursue his services.

The Sharks also have some minor injury problems with Andrew Borghetto (knee), Nathan Day (back) and Mike Harkness (shoulder). Only Harkness, who has not trained for a week, may miss a game if not fully fit.

A decision on the new Sharks home base at Thebarton Oval has been deferred until December 9th.



Edwards leaves Olympic

By JODEE ROGERS

Alistair Edwards, UTS Olympic and former Soccerroo striker, is on the move to Perth Glory.

Edwards, who has been out of the Olympic line up for the past two weeks with a leg injury, spoke to club management about the possibility of returning to his home team of Perth.

He felt that at this stage in his playing career, family commitments must also be considered.

After serious discussions were held, the Board decided that although as a club they never like to lose a quality player, they also had a responsibility to Edwards as a person. In the end it was decided that the move was in the best interest of all parties.

Edwards has had experience overseas in the Malaysian M-League.



Alistair Edwards: Traveling West to join Perth.

Tony Franken stepped into the goalkeeping position of UTS Olympic for Sunday's home game against Wollongong.

After George Bouhoutsos' red card the previous weekend against Perth Glory, Ratcliffe decided that the experienced

custodian will fill the position. Franken is a former international with a vast amount of top line experience.

Seen as an unfortunate incident rather than a calculated foul, the number one goalie will be restored to his position after the suspension is ended.

A Queensland XXXX league club is seeking to legally block the newly-merged Australian Rules Football Club, Brisbane from using the nickname Lions.

The Australian Rules Football Club, known as Brisbane Bears until their merger with Fitzroy Lions, officially unveiled the club's new playing jumper and colours last week under threat of legal action from Brisbane Lions Soccer Club.

The AFL club has changed its playing uniform, corporate stationery and re-done all its signage at the Gabba ground their home in Brisbane.

The dispute involving the two rival codes is scheduled to go before the Federal Court this Friday for a ruling.

Should the Soccer club, registered as the Lions since 1971, a nickname it used playing in the National Soccer League from the mid 1970s until 1988, establish its case, it will immediately seek to slap an injunction on the Brisbane AFL club.

Brisbane Lions Soccer club president, Laurence Oudendyk last Friday declined to

confirm reports that his club had asked the AFL club for \$1 million for the use the name, Lions.

He also denied suggestions of a "money grab" pointing out his club had just won the local XXXX League premiership, was financially secure with its own sponsors, had money in the bank and had "substantial assets".

Oudendyk said his club, which had been using the name Lions for 25 years, first wrote to Bears the day after it announced plans to change their name to Lions.

"We were invited to two meetings to discuss monetary arrangements but they broke down," he said.

"Can you imagine if they (Bears) had rolled up and called themselves the Brisbane Broncos, the rugby league club would have jumped up and down."

"But we're Soccer and they see us as small fry. They perceive us as a minor sport."

"But the reality is we both play in the same city and in the same season."

"Brisbane people follow a variety of sports in the winter, they're not like Melbourne

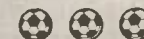


BEIJING TEAM REBUFF

While the ACT Academy of Sport and Sydney United were battling out their National Youth League game at Bruce Stadium, a hundred metres away, on one of the Australian Institute of Sport training pitches, the ACT senior representative team was playing a club side from the Chinese capital of Beijing.

ACT Soccer Federation officials had originally applied for the game to be a second curtain-raiser to the Ericsson Cup match between Canberra Cosmos and Sydney United, but had been turned down by a Soccer Australia official who said only one curtain-raiser is allowed before a national competition game.

At least one ACTSF official was miffed enough to comment, "Another example of inflexible rules ruining a good chance to promote Soccer."



TALK OF SACKING AT MARCONI

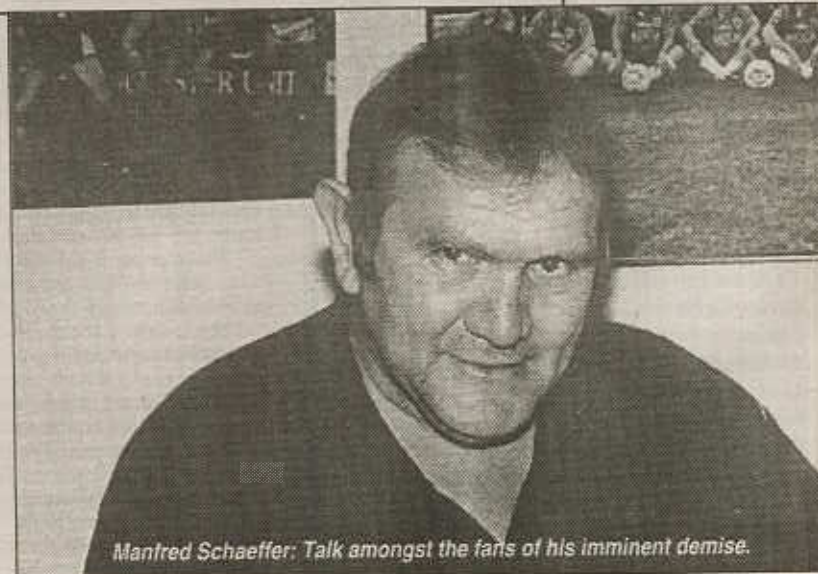
By JOHN ECONOMOS

In Club Marconi after the game against South Melbourne, talk was of the possible sacking of coach, Manfred Schaeffer. However, it would be most surprising if this happened in the last twenty years, pursued a policy of not succumbing to sacking of coaches.

At this moment it must be emphasised that fitness levels, tactics and playing strength are not the team's major problems. The answer, for the last four matches, appears to lie in the area of confidence.

Surely this must soon change as the giants of Australian Soccer just cannot continue on this downward spiral. They added to an already star studded line up

with the off season signing of central midfielder Craig Foster and the mobile striker Sean Babic.



Manfred Schaeffer: Talk amongst the fans of his imminent demise.



ERICSSON CUP ERICSSON CUP

RESULTS & SCORERS ROUND EIGHT

Melbourne Knights
(Simunic 46, Kutlesovski 62)
Newcastle Breakers
Crowd: 2,794

2

0



Canberra Cosmos
(Dee 23)
Sydney United
(Milicic 34, Rudan 57, Zdrilic 82)
Crowd: 3,500

1

3



Marconi Fairfield
South Melbourne
(Trimboli 87)
Crowd: 4,972

0

1



Perth Glory
(Wilkinson 84, Despotovski 90)
Adelaide City
(Tobin 38)
Crowd: 9,765

2

1



Collingwood Warriors
Gippsland Falcons
(Krncevic 13)
Crowd: 3,110

0

1



UTS Olympic
(Tome 44)
Wollongong City
(Connelly 44)
Crowd: 6,222

1

1



West Adelaide
Brisbane Strikers
Crowd: 3,977

0

0

ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR ROUND 8

1995/96 - 26,679
1996/97 - 34,340

NEXT WEEK'S FIXTURES

PRICES SUPPLIED BY **SPORTODDS**

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS V GIPPSLAND FALCONS

FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER 1996 - 7.30PM

Newcastle Breakers 5/4, Draw 9/4, Gippsland Falcons 7/4

WOLLONGONG CITY V WEST ADELAIDE

FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER 1996 - 7.30PM

Wollongong City 11/8, Draw 9/4, West Adelaide 13/8

BRISBANE STRIKERS V PERTH GLORY

SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 1996 - 7.00PM

Brisbane Strikers 1/3, Draw 3/1, Perth Glory 8/1

SOUTH MELBOURNE V UTS OLYMPIC

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 1996 - 6.00PM

South Melbourne 6/4, Draw 2/1, UTS Olympic 6/4

SYDNEY UNITED V COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 1996 - 6.30PM

Sydney United 1/2, Draw 5/2, Collingwood 4/1

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS V MARCONI FAIRFIELD

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 1996 - 6.00PM

Melbourne Knights 5/4, Draw 2/1, Marconi 7/4

ADELAIDE CITY V CANBERRA COSMOS

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 1996 - 7.30PM

Adelaide City 1/2, Draw 5/2, Canberra 5/1

**Bet on any sport
over the phone.**

SportOdds

FreeCall 1800 650 818



Rodney Brown - Brisbane Strikers

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	8	7	1	0	24	11	22
Brisbane Strikers	8	6	2	0	17	5	20
UTS Olympic	7	5	2	0	10	9	17
Wollongong City	8	2	5	1	10	9	11
Collingwood Warriors	7	2	4	1	9	6	11
Perth Glory	8	3	1	4	17	16	10
West Adelaide	8	3	1	4	12	15	10
Adelaide City	8	2	3	3	5	6	9
South Melbourne	8	2	3	3	7	9	9
Gippsland Falcons	8	2	3	3	7	10	9
Melbourne Knights	8	2	3	3	6	9	9
Marconi Fairfield	8	2	2	4	9	13	8
Newcastle Breakers	8	1	4	3	12	17	7
Canberra Cosmos	9	0	4	5	9	21	4

NAME	TEAM	GOALS
DAVID ZDRILLIC	Sydney United	8
RODNEY BROWN	Brisbane Strikers	5
BOBBY DESPOTOVSKI	Perth Glory	5
NORMAN TOME	UTS Olympic	5
JASON BENNETT	Newcastle Breakers	4
MATTHEW HORSLEY	Wollongong City	4
ANTE MILICIC	Sydney United	4
PAUL STRUDWICK	Perth Glory	4
JIMMY TSEKINIS	West Adelaide	4
FRANK FARINA	Brisbane Strikers	3
NORMAN KELLY	Canberra Cosmos	3
EDDIE KRNCVIC	Gippsland Falcons	3
GLENN SPROD	Newcastle Breakers	3
BRIAN MACNICOL	Collingwood	3
K TALIADOROS	Collingwood	3
KRIS TRAJANOVSKI	UTS Olympic	3

MATT BINGLEY

Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY



& MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY

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WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

AFRICAN CUP FINAL

First Leg

Shooting Stars (Nigeria)	2	Zamalek (Egypt)	1
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CAF Cup

Kawkab Marrakesh (Morocco)	2	Etoile Sport (Tunisia)	1
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World Cup CONCACAF

Semi-final, Group One

Costa Rica	2	United States	1
Wanchope (39), Lopez (84)		Jones (90)	

Table

Costa Rica	4	3	0	1	6	2	9
United States	4	3	0	1	6	2	9
Guatemala	4	1	1	2	2	6	4
Trinidad/Tobago	4	0	1	3	1	5	1

Top two teams qualify for the final round of the CONCACAF competition.

Semi-final, Group two

El Salvador	3	Cuba	0
Renders (4), Diaz Arce (32)		Rodriguez (50)	

Table

Canada	5	4	1	0	8	1	13
El Salvador	5	3	1	1	12	4	10
Cuba	5	1	0	4	3	13	3
Panama	5	0	2	3	5	10	2

Remaining games: December 15 El Salvador v Canada, Panama v Cuba.

Note: Canada and El Salvador qualify for the final round of the CONCACAF qualifying competition.

ARGENTINA

Apertura Championship

Ferro Carril Oeste	5	Huracan-Corrientes	1
Gimnasia-La Plata	0	Estudiantes	0
Independiente	2	Colon	1
Newell's Old Boys	0	San Lorenzo	2
Velez Sarsfield	2	Lanus	0
Banfield	1	Rosario Central	1
Deportivo Espanol	1	Boca Juniors	1
Huracan	1	Platense	1

Table

Lanus	15	9	5	1	21	10	32
River Plate	13	10	1	2	34	13	31
Independiente	15	8	4	3	25	17	28
Racing Club	14	7	4	3	22	16	25
San Lorenzo	15	7	3	5	22	18	24
Velez Sarsfield	15	6	5	4	29	24	23
Boca Juniors	15	6	4	5	27	23	22
Newell Old Boys	15	6	4	5	21	19	22
Rosario Central	15	5	6	4	24	22	21
Platense	15	5	5	5	22	21	20
Gimnasia-La Plata	15	5	5	5	12	13	20
Ferro Carril Oes	15	4	5	6	28	28	17
Colon	15	3	7	5	15	22	16
Gimnasia-Jujuy	14	3	6	5	9	13	15
Estudiantes	15	4	3	8	17	25	15
Huracan	15	3	6	6	17	28	15
Deportivo Espan	15	2	7	6	12	18	13
Banfield	15	3	4	8	13	23	13
Union	14	3	3	8	19	25	12
Huracan Corrien	14	1	7	6	17	29	10



BELGIUM

First Division

Mouscron	3	Alost	2
Cercle Brugge	1	Charleroi	0
Harelbeke	3	Molenbeek	0
Lommel	1	Lokeren	0
Anderlecht	0	Mechelen	0
Antwerp	2	Ekeren	0
Lierse	2	Standard Liege	1
Sint Truiden	1	Genk	1
Ghent	1	Club Brugge	3

Table

Club Brugge	17	11	4	2	36	17	37
Mouscron	17	10	5	2	31	16	35
Standard Liege	17	11	0	6	32	20	33

Lierse	17	8	7	2	27	16	31
Harelbeke	17	9	3	5	30	20	30
Lommel	17	8	5	4	28	25	29
Antwerp	17	9	1	7	30	29	28
Anderlecht	17	7	7	3	26	13	28
Molenbeek	17	6	4	7	18	21	22
Ghent	17	6	3	8	28	35	21
Lokeren	17	5	5	7	26	28	20
Genk	17	4	8	5	19	23	20
Charleroi	17	5	3	9	23	27	18
Ekeren	17	4	4	9	21	29	16
Mechelen	17	3	6	8	16	26	15
Alost	17	2	8	7	21	31	14
Sint Truiden	17	2	6	9	22	37	12
Cercle Brugge	17	1	5	11	16	7	8

BRAZIL

Atletico Paranaense	1	Cricuma	2
Bragantino	1	Internacional	0
Corinthians	1	Coritiba	1
Cruzeiro	2	Santos	1
Flamengo	0	Bahia	1
Gremio	1	Goias	3
Juventude	1	Atletico Mineiro	0
Palmeiras	4	Sport Recife	1
Parana	1	Sao Paulo	1
Portuguesa	4	Botafogo	1
Vasco da Gama	0	Guarani	2
Vitoria	1	Fluminense	3

Table

Cruzeiro	23	13	5	4	31	17	44
Guarani	23	13	4	6	23	14	43
Palmeiras	23	12	7	4	42	20	43
Atletico Paranaense	23	12	3	8	41	28	39
Atletico Mineiro	23	12	3	8	39	32	39
Gremio	23	11	5	7	42	27	38
Goias	23	11	4	8	37	27	37
Portuguesa	23	11	3	9	32	29	36
Internacional	23	10	5	8	31	27	35
Sport Recife	23	10	5	8	32	31	35
Sao Paulo	23	9	8	6	39	32	35
Corinthians	23	7	11	5	20	19	32
Flamengo	23	9	3	11	24	31	30
Vitoria	23	8	5	10	32	39	29
Coritiba	23	8	5	10	25	30	29
Parana	23	8	4	11	26	30	28
Botafogo	23	7	7	9	33	35	28
Vasco da Gama	23	8	3	12	37	43	27
Juventude	23	8	3	12	31	37	27
Santos	23	7	6	10	26	31	27
Cricuma	23	6	5	12	31	39	23
Bahia	23	5	8	10	25	35	23
Fluminense	23	6	4	13	26	50	22
Bragantino	23	5	4	14	26	48	19

BRAZIL

Championship Quarter Finals, Second Leg

Atletico Paranaense	1	Atletico Mineiro	0
(Atletico Mineiro win 3-2 on aggregate)			
Guarani	1	Goias	0
(Goias win 3-2 on aggregate)			
Palmeiras	1	Gremio	0
(Gremio win 3-2 on aggregate)			
Cruzeiro	1	Portuguesa	0
(Portuguesa win 3-1 on aggregate)			
Semi-finals: Goias v Gremio, Portuguesa v Atletico Mineiro			

DENMARK

Super League

AB	1	Aarhus	1
Brondby	1	Herfoelge	3
FC Copenhagen	1	Aalborg	1
Odense	0	Hvidovre	2
Silkeborg	0	Viborg	0
Vejle	4	Lyngby	1

Table

Brondby	18	11	4	3	33	21	37
Aalborg	18	9	5	4	33	24	32
Aarhus	18	9	3	6	45	27	30
Odense	18	8	4	6	35	28	28
Herfoelge	18	9	1	8	19	21	28
Lyngby	18	8	3	7	31	33	27
Vejle	18	5	7	6	30	26	22
Viborg	18	4	8	6	20	29	20
Silkeborg	18	3	10	5	23	33	19
Hvidovre	18	3	7	8	20	26	16
FC Copenhagen	18	3	7	8	19	29	16
AB	18	2	9	7	24	35	15

Note: This was the last weekend before the winter break. Matches resume March 16, 1997.

ENGLAND

Premier League

Aston Villa	1	Middlesbrough	0
Blackburn	2	Southampton	1
Derby	2	Coventry	1
Everton	1	Sunderland	3
Manchester United	3	Leicester	1
Newcastle	1	Arsenal	2
Sheffield Wed	0	West Ham	0

WIMBLEDON

Table

Arsenal	15	9	4	2	29	13	31
Newcastle	15	9	2	4	26	17	29
Liverpool	14	8	4	2	24	13	28
Wimbledon	15	8	4	3	26	16	28
Manchester Utd	15	7	5	3	29	22	26
Chelsea	14	6	6	2	23	19	24
Aston Villa	15	7	3	5	19	15	24
Everton	15	6	5	4	23	18	23
Derby	15	5	6	4	17	17	21
Sheffield Wed	15	5	6	4	16	18	21
Tottenham	14	6	2	6	15	14	20
Sunderland	15	4	5	6	13	18	17
West Ham	15	4	5	6	13	18	17
Leicester	15	5	2	8	14	21	17
Leeds	14	5	1	8	13	20	16
Middlesbrough	15	3	5	7	20	26	14
Southampton	15	3	4	8	23	28	13
Blackburn	15	2	6	7	15	20	12
Coventry	15	1	7	7	9	21	10
Nottingham For	15	1	6	8	12	25	9



Division One

Bolton	2	Barnsley	2
Bradford	1	West Bromwich	1
Grimsby	2	Crystal Palace	1
Norwich	0	Birmingham	1
Oxford	0	Charlton	2
Port Vale	0	Huddersfield	0
Portsmouth	1	Stoke	0
Queens Park Ran	1	Sheffield United	0
Southend	1	Oldham	1
Swindon	3	Reading	1
Tranmere	3	Ipswich	0

Table

Bolton	21	11	8	2	43	28	41
Crystal Palace	20	9	7	4	44	20	34
Barnsley	19	9	7	3	35	26	34
Sheffield United	19	9	6	4	34	19	33
Tranmere	20	9	5	6	31	22	32
Norwich	19	9	5	5	27	19	32
Birmingham	20	8	6	6	23	21	30
Swindon	21	9	2	10	32	26	29
Wolverhampton	19	8	5	6	26	21	29
Oxford	21	8	5	8	25	19	29
Portsmouth	21	7	5	9	25	28	26
Charlton	19	8	2	9	21	28	26
Ipswich	21	6	7	8	27	32	25
Queens Park Ran	21	6	7	8	23	28	25
Huddersfield	20	6	7	7	22	25	25
Port Vale	21	5	10	6	18	22	25
West Bromwich	20	5	9	6	26	31	24
Stoke	18	6	6	6	24	30	24
Southend	21	5	9	7	23	33	24
Manchester City	20	7	2	11	23	30	23
Reading	20	6	5	9	23	32	23
Bradford	21	5	6	10	19	34	21
Grimsby	21	5	5	11	24	41	20
Oldham	21	4	8	9	23	26	20

Division Two

Bournemouth	3	Luton	2
Bristol Rovers	4	Bury	3
Crewe	5	Shrewsbury	1
Notts County	2	Bristol City	0
Peterborough	6	Rotherham	2
Plymouth	0	Burnley	0
Preston	1	Gillingham	0
Stockport	2	Walsall	0
Watford	2	Blackpool	2
Wrexham	1	Wycombe	0
York	0	Chesterfield	0
Millwall	0	Brentford	0



WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

GERMANY

Borussia Moench	0	Duisburg	1
Hansa Rostock	3	Arminia Bielefeld	1
Freiburg	2	Schalke	3
1860 Munich	1	Karlsruhe	1
Fortuna Duesseldorf	4	Werder Bremen	1
Bayer Leverkusen	4	Cologne	2
Borussia Dortmund	1	Hamburg	1

Table

Bayer Lever	16	10	3	3	36	20	33
Bayern Munich	15	9	5	1	25	13	32
Borussia Dort	16	9	4	3	33	17	31
VfB Stuttgart	15	9	3	3	38	16	30
Cologne	16	8	2	6	31	27	26
Bochum	15	7	5	3	21	19	26
Karlsruhe	16	7	4	5	27	20	25
Schalke	16	6	4	6	23	26	22
Werder Bremen	16	6	3	7	28	27	21
Duisburg	16	5	4	7	16	22	19
St Pauli	15	5	3	7	21	28	18
Fortuna Duessel	16	5	3	8	13	24	18
Hamburg	16	4	5	7	20	25	17
1860 Munich	16	4	5	7	24	30	17
Arminia Bielefeld	16	4	4	8	18	28	16
Hansa Rostock	16	4	3	9	19	24	15
Bor. Monchen	16	4	3	9	12	22	15
Freiburg	16	4	1	11	20	37	13

Stadler FC
Pecs

16	2	2	12	8	26	8
16	1	3	12	11	36	6

ITALY

Serie A

Atalanta	2	Napoli	2
Inter	2	Cagliari	2
Juventus	1	Bologna	0
Perugia	1	Vicenza	1
Piacenza	3	Milan	2
Reggiana	0	Lazio	2
Udinese	3	Parma	1
Verona	1	Sampdoria	1

Table

Vicenza	11	6	3	2	20	11	21
Inter	11	5	5	1	15	10	20
Juventus	10	5	4	1	12	7	19
Bologna	11	6	1	4	19	15	19
Napoli	11	4	5	2	16	16	17
Sampdoria	11	4	4	3	16	10	16
Perugia	11	5	1	5	16	17	16
Roma	10	4	3	3	17	13	15
Milan	11	4	3	4	17	14	15
Udinese	10	4	3	3	13	11	15
Lazio	11	4	3	4	12	11	15
Piacenza	11	4	3	4	13	15	15
Fiorentina	10	3	5	2	12	10	14
Parma	11	3	4	4	12	13	13
Atalanta	11	2	4	5	12	21	10
Cagliari	11	2	3	6	13	18	9
Verona	11	1	4	6	11	22	7
Reggiana	11	0	4	7	9	21	4

Serie B

Bari	0	Cremonese	0
Cosenza	1	Cesena	0
Empoli	2	Chievo	1
Foggia	1	Reggina	0
Lucchese	3	Lecce	3
Padova	1	Salernitana	1
Palermo	1	Torino	0
Ravenna	2	Brescia	1
Venezia	2	Pescara	0

Table

Lecce	12	8	3	1	22	12	27
Pescara	12	7	4	1	20	9	25
Brescia	12	5	5	2	16	10	20
Torino	12	5	3	4	14	13	18
Empoli	12	5	3	4	14	16	18
Bari	12	3	8	1	15	8	17
Lucchese	12	4	5	3	12	10	17
Ravenna	12	4	5	3	14	13	17
Genoa	11	3	7	1	12	7	16
Chievo	12	4	4	4	14	14	16
Padova	12	4	4	4	12	13	16
Foggia	12	4	3	5	14	17	15
Palermo	12	3	5	4	12	14	14
Salernitana	12	3	5	4	7	10	14
Cosenza	12	3	5	4	10	14	14
Cesena	12	2	6	4	10	11	12
Venezia	12	2	4	6	13	16	10
C Sangro	11	3	1	7	5	15	10
Reggina	12	1	6	5	9	15	9



Italy
1905

HUNGARY

Csepel	9	Bekescsaba	1
Vac	2	Stadler FC	0
Siofok	2	Videoton	1
ZTE (Zalaerszeg)	1	Vasas	4
III. ker. TVE	4	Ferencvaros	3
Kispest Honved	2	Haladas	0
Debrecen DVSC-Ep	0	Ujpest	1
Gyor	2	Pecs	1
MTK	0	BVSC	1

Table

MTK	16	15	0	1	47	12	45
Ujpest TE	16	12	2	2	37	15	38
Ferencvaros	16	12	2	2	34	20	38
Vasas	16	11	2	3	25	12	35
Kispest	16	8	3	5	23	19	27
Deb DVSC Ep	16	7	4	5	30	21	25
BVSC	16	7	4	5	22	15	25
Gyor	16	7	2	7	20	25	23
ZTE (Zalaerszeg)	16	7	1	8	17	25	22
Haladas	16	5	4	7	20	19	19
Videoton	16	4	6	6	18	19	18
III. ker. TVE	16	4	5	7	21	29	17
Vac	16	4	4	8	21	27	16
Bekescsaba	16	4	3	9	19	31	15
Siofok	16	4	3	9	19	31	15
Csepel	16	2	6	8	24	30	12

Cremonese

12	2	2	8	6	14	8
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NORTHERN IRELAND

Premier Division

Coleraine	0	Cliftonville	1
Crusaders	0	Linfield	1
Glentoran	2	Glenavon	2
Portadown	0	Ards	1

Table

Coleraine	9	7	1	1	18	10	22
Linfield	9	4	3	2	12	8	15
Crusaders	9	3	3	3	11	9	12
Portadown	8	3	2	3	10	11	11
Glenavon	9	2	4	3	13	13	10
Ards	9	3	1	5	12	17	10
Glentoran	9	2	3	4	17	18	9
Cliftonville	8	1	3	4	4	11	6

SCOTLAND

Premier Division

Celtic	2	Hearts	2
Dundee United	1	Dunfermline	1
Hibernian	2	Motherwell	0
Raith	1	Kilmarnock	0

Table

Rangers	12	9	2	1	28	9	29
Celtic	13	8	3	2	31	13	27
Aberdeen	13	6	4	3	25	14	22
Hearts	14	5	5	4	18	19	20
Hibernian	14	5	3	6	13	21	18
Dunfermline	13	4	5	4	17	24	17
Dundee United	14	3	5	6	15	17	14
Motherwell	14	3	5	6	15	22	14
Kilmarnock	13	3	2	8	17	27	11
Raith	14	3	2	9	14	27	11



Division One

Clydebank	0	Dundee	0
Falkirk	2	East Fife	1
Partick	0	Greenock Morton	0
St Johnstone	5	Stirling	0
St Mirren	2	Airdrieonians	3

Table

St Johnstone	16	11	2	3	34	8	35
Falkirk	16	9	2	5	18	13	29
Airdrieonians	16	6	8	2	26	16	26
Partick	16	6	6	4	23	16	24
Dundee	15	6	5	4	10	8	23
St Mirren	16	7	2	7	22	21	23
Greenock Morton	15	6	4	5	17	14	22
Clydebank	16	4	2	10	11	25	14
Stirling	16	3	3	10	18	33	12
East Fife	14	1	4	9	10	35	7

Division Two

Ayr	1	Dumbarton	4
Berwick	0	Brechin	0
Clyde	2	Livingston	0
Queen of the South	3	Stranraer	2

Table

Ayr	16	11	2	3	30	18	35
Livingston	15	9	4	2	25	12	31
Hamilton	14	8	4	2	26	10	28
Clyde	15	6	4	5	21	20	22
Queen of the Sth	16	6	4	6	24	27	22
Stenhousemuir	14	4	5	5	17	10	17
Stranraer	14	5	2	7	13	20	17
Dumbarton	16	4	4	8	18	29	16
Brechin	14	2	6	6	12	15	12
Berwick	16	1	3	12	16	41	6

Division Three

Alloa	2	Queen's Park	1
Arbroath	1	Inverness	4
Montrose	2	Albion	1
Ross County	1	East Stirling	1

Table

Inverness	16	8	5	3	28	20	29
Montrose	16	9	2	5	26	21	29
Ross County	16	8	2	6	23	19	26
Cowdenbeath	15	7	3	5	22	16	24
Albion	15	6	6	3	21	15	24
Forfar	15	6	4	5	26	24	22
Alloa	15	6	4	5	22	21	22
Queen's Park	16	3	5	8	20	30	14
Arbroath	16	2	6	8	12	23	12
East Stirling	16	2	5	9	14	25	11

POLAND

First Division

Gornik Zabrze	1	Ruch Chorzow	0
Hutnik Krakow	1	Lech Poznan	1
GKS Belchatow	1	Wisla Krakow	2
LKS Lodz	5	Slask Wroclaw	2
Zaglebie Lubin	2	Widzew Lodz	2
Rakow Czestochowa	1	GKS Katowice	1
Legia Warszawa	2	Amica Wronki	0
Polonia Warszawa	0	Odra Wodzislaw	2
Stomil Olsztyn	1	Sokol Tychy	0

Table

Widzew Lodz	18	12	5	1	38	10	41
Legia Warszawa	18	13	2	3	33	14	41
GKS Katowice	18	8	7	3	27	20	31
Stomil Olsztyn	18	8	4	6	27	22	28
Odra Wodzislaw	18	8	4	6	29	25	28
Amica Wronki	18	8	3	7	22	24	27
Wisla Krakow	18	7	4	7	17	19	25
Polonia Warszawa	18	7	3	8	17	24	24
Rakow Czest	18	6	6	6	17	20	24

Zaglebie Lubin	18	5	7	6	19	22	22
LKS Lodz	18	5	7	6	24	24	22
Lech Poznan	18	6	4	8	20	23	22
Hutnik Krakow	18	5	5	8	18	23	20
Sokol Tychy	18	5	5	8	18	25	20
GKS Belchatow	18	5	4	9	21	27	19
Gornik Zabrze	18	5	3	10	18	27	18
Ruch Chorzow	18	3	7	8	15	22	16
Slask Wroclaw	18	4	4	10	16	25	16

PORTUGAL

First Division

Salgueiros	1	Belenenses	2
Estrela Amadora	3	Chaves	0
Sporting	0	Uniao Leiria	0
Espinho	1	Gil Vicente	0
Farense	2	Braga	2
Maritimo	1	Guimaraes	2
Rio Ave	0	Benfica	1
Leca	2	Porto	4
Boavista	0	Setubal	0

WORLD STORIES

Child labour-free ball manufacture

Pakistan, which produces 60 per cent of the world's hand-stitched soccer balls, has moved to eliminate under-age labour from the industry by opening its first centre producing 'child-free' footballs.

Pakistani soccer ball manufacturing company Saga Sports, in a joint venture with Nike Incorporated of USA, has set up the country's first 'child-free' stitching centre near the Punjab city of Sialkot.

The centre, which went into operation yesterday, is intended to start to eliminate the use of child labour in football manufacturing, company officials said.

The Saga-Nike centre will employ nearly 500 stitchers of eligible age from villages in the Sialkot area which has been producing sports goods for more than 100 years. In Pakistan, the legal minimum age to do such work is 14.

"From now on, Pakistan's soccer industry will be a child-free industry," Saga's chief executive, Khurshid Sufi, said.

The centre has been set up following strong criticism from the Westabout the use of child labour.

Pakistan earns millions of dollars in foreign exchange from the 35 million soccer balls it produces each year.

However, exports have declined in recent years due to allegations of bonded and under-age child labour in the industry.

Pakistani soccer balls have been used in prestigious international events including the last World Cup.

But this year Western nations linked the use of Pakistani made footballs for the 1998 World Cup in France to a firm assurance that no bonded labour was used in their preparation, official sources said.



ENGLAND BIDDING FOR WORLD CUP

Five months after England successfully staged the European Championship, British Prime Minister John Major said he would support an English Football Association bid to stage 2006 World Cup.

An FA delegation led by England manager Glenn Hoddle met Major for an hour last week and FA chief executive Graham Kelly said more talks would be held within two weeks.

"I am very happy to say that the Prime Minister has

indicated that he is very keen and will strongly support the bid in principle," Kelly said.

The FA has decided to make the bid, which could cost double the \$A311 million price tag of the European Championship, 30 years after England last held the World Cup. Kelly said government funding was not discussed.

"We are not at that stage yet," Kelly said. "We haven't quantified the costs of a bid completely, but it's safe to say that we are very pleased with the support from Mr Major."

"The question of funding is

something that will be examined in the meetings which will start in two weeks' time, but it's important for us to discuss these things in full before we make any request for help from the Government."

Germany, which has already announced plan to bid for the 2006 event, is reported to be upset about England's bid.

The Germans are understood to have supported England's bid for the '96 European Championship in exchange for England support



for Germany's 2006 bid. "We have talked to the German Football Association about it," Kelly said.

One match suspension for Weah

AC Milan striker George Weah was banned for one match last week and could face further suspension for a violent incident at the end of a recent European Cup match.

UEFA, suspended the 30-year-old Liberian for Milan's vital final clash in the Champions' League phase of the European Cup and said it would conduct a full investigation into the incident.

Weah, the reigning World Player of the Year, is alleged to have attacked Porto defender Jorge Costa in the

players' tunnel at the end of a Champions' League match on November 20 and broken his opponent's nose with a head-butt.

Costa underwent surgery last Thursday and is expected to be out of action for at least three weeks.

The Porto defender could also face suspension if UEFA finds he triggered the incident with racial taunts.

Milan said today the club appreciated UEFA's "intention to clear up an event which deserves to be checked in every detail".

The committee heard



Weah Out for at least one game

reports from match officials but decided that a more thorough investigation was necessary.

Milan need a point to clinch a place in the quarter-finals of the European Cup, a

competition it has won five times. In a break from normal procedure, the disciplinary committee also heard from the parties involved, including Weah and Milan officials.

JOINT APPROACH FOR EURO 2004

Austrian and Croatian soccer officials met in Vienna last week to discuss a possible joint bid from the two countries to host the European Championship in 2004.

Austrian federation chairman Beppo Mauhart said the two countries would remain in contact about the

matter and that a final decision would be taken in April 1997.

Earlier in the month, Mauhart negotiated with Czech, Hungarian and Swiss federations on the possibility of co-hosting the tournament.

"It is impossible for us to organise a tournament with 16 teams on our own, therefore

we are looking for a partner," said Mauhart.

UEFA is expected to make a decision on the bids for the 2004 championship in which Spain is considered a front runner in 1998.

Belgium and the Netherlands will jointly host the competition in 2000.

Croatian Awards '96

- ★ Best Croatian Player in the Croatian League: IGOR CVITANOVIC (Cro Zagreb)
- ★ Best Foreign Player in the Croatian League: MARK VIDUKA (Australia)
- ★ Best Croatian Player Abroad: DAVOR SUKER (Real Madrid)
- ★ Best U/21 Player in Croatia: DARIO SIMIC (Cro Zagreb)



Mark Viduka

BIG BONUSES IN J-LEAGUE

Gamba Osaka coach, Zeljko Kuze stands to get \$500,000 if he can get the team as high as fifth in the Japanese J League. If the former Sydney United coach can raise the southern Japan Club to top then he gets a cool \$1,000,000.

The team is currently mid table and the stars of the team are Skrinjar, Mladenovic and Babunski.

The team has beaten Newcastle United 3-1 in a friendly. Newcastle had all its stars including Shearer, Asprilla and Ferdinand on hand but struggled against a well drilled Gamba outfit.

NEW COACH FOR PANATHINAIKOS

Velimir Zajec has left Croatia Zagreb FC to become coach of Greek champions Panathinaikos.

The Greeks felt a need for a new face as the former coach Argentinian, Rocha failed to take the club to the Champions League. Currently the club is second in the Greek first division.



JUVENTUS TAKE TOYOTA CUP

Juventus won the Toyota Cup and the Europe South America Cup for the second time when an 82nd minute goal from Alessandro Del Piero (right) gave it a 1-0 win over River Plate of Argentina last Tuesday.

The Italians, playing with seven of the men who won the European Cup final in May, had the better of a scrappy match but one which they undoubtedly deserved to win.

The only goal came eight minutes from time when Angelo Di Livio's corner was flicked on to Del Piero lurking unmarked on the far side of the box.

The 22 year old striker turned and controlled the ball and in the same movement sent it soaring past River Plate goalkeeper Roberto Bonano. He had no chance of stopping

it flying past his left-hand shoulder into the far corner of the net.

The goal belatedly brought the match to life and Alen Boksic had two good chances to score after trademark Juve counter-attacks but wasted them both.

River Plate went close at the other end in the later stages but the nearest they came to a goal was when Ariel Ortega hit the crossbar from an acute angle after 72 minutes. Juventus followed Ajax's success for Europe in the final last year. Since the competition began in 1960, South American sides have won it 20 times against Europe's 14. Juventus's previous victory came in 1985 when they beat Argentinos Juniors on penalties.

The Italians won praise from their coach Marcello Lippi after the game..

Lippi who has rebuilt the side since Juventus was crowned European champion said: "We were able to play to our own rhythm and I think dominated the match."

"We worked hard for three years to bring ourselves up to this level and I think everybody in the team deserves credit for this championship."

River Plate manager Ramon Diaz said: "Both teams played extremely well and I am satisfied the way we played today. I hope we can come back again to Tokyo next year."

The victory sparked celebrations in the streets of Turin, with fans gathering in the main square to cheer the Italian success and others in cars forming a procession in the streets, flying Juve flags outside the windows.



Albania suspended

FIFA has suspended Albania from competition, saying the government has interfered in the running of the sport.

The Albanian Football Association's general secretary was recently suspended by the ministry of sport and the association's executive committee was dissolved.

Albania's next World Cup qualifier is scheduled for December 14 against Northern Ireland in Belfast.

FIFA officials hope the conflict with the Albanian government will be resolved before then.

RISING STARS

BILL TURNER CUP MOVES ON

The imminent passing of 1996 sees the severing of bonds between the Commonwealth Bank and the Bill Turner Cup which goes back nine years.

The association between the two has been mutually rewarding. The Bank have decided to end their involvement at the Under 15 level although they will continue their sponsorship of the senior Boys and the Girls competition.

Queensland put in 245

schools from the Far North of the State to the Gold Coast, out of a total entry of 708. NSW, the ACT and northern Victoria provided the rest.

This total entry is recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the largest knock out competition in the World. Much bigger than even the FA Cup.

Nudgee College of Brisbane ran out Queensland winners. Stanhope High's achievement must be mentioned as they reached the Semi Finals with only 60

pupils to pick from.

Galan College of Wangaratta, northern Victoria, went down narrowly to Koorinal High from Wagga Wagga in southern NSW.

History was made by accident when Forbes High School travelled to Bathurst for their fixture. The Forbes team was all girls and was supposed to go somewhere else.

\$10,000 promised as part of the total sponsorship failed to be honoured this year. This has put severe constraints on

available finances to cover costs of phone and fax bills, postage, ground hire, referees fees, money prizes and school travelling expenses.

Soccer Australia has given their Marketing Manager, Jim Shomas the task of helping the Bill Turner Cup Executive gain a new major sponsor.

A TV company have offered to come in for a substantial amount. This still leaves the major sponsor's position vacant.

SUNSMART NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Round 6 — 1 DECEMBER, 1996

SASI	1	Modbury	2
Terminello		Mogg, Scalzi	
Woodville City	1	Cumberland United	0
Salvatore			
Adelaide City	7	Adelaide Blue Eagles	2
Sahjak 3, Saraceno, McGregor, O'Reilly		Giordane, Calvanese	
West Adelaide	10	Para Hills	0
Cuttillo 3, Stenner 3, Daskalos 2, Artone, Mezenof			

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Adelaide City	6	5	1	0	17	5	16
Modbury	6	4	1	1	13	7	13
West Adelaide	6	3	1	2	14	5	10
SASI	6	3	1	2	16	8	10
Woodville City	6	3	0	3	8	6	9
Cumberland United	6	2	0	4	8	13	6
Adelaide Blue Eagles	6	2	0	4	10	17	6
Para Hills	6	0	0	6	4	29	0

AUSTRALIA UNDER 17s SOUTH AMERICAN TOUR

It took a late goal for Argentina to break the resistance of a tenacious Australia Joey outfit in Buenos Aires on November 20.

Zackis fed Culina just outside the box in the 29th minute. Culina, on an acute angle hit the ball home.

Baldwin had the ball in the net in the 69th but was ruled offside.

One minute later a neat chip deceived Barlow in the

Argentina	2	Australia	1
San Lorenzo	1	Australia	0

Joey's goal to give the home side an equaliser.

Argentina got their winner from a well flighted cross which was headed home five minutes into stoppage time.

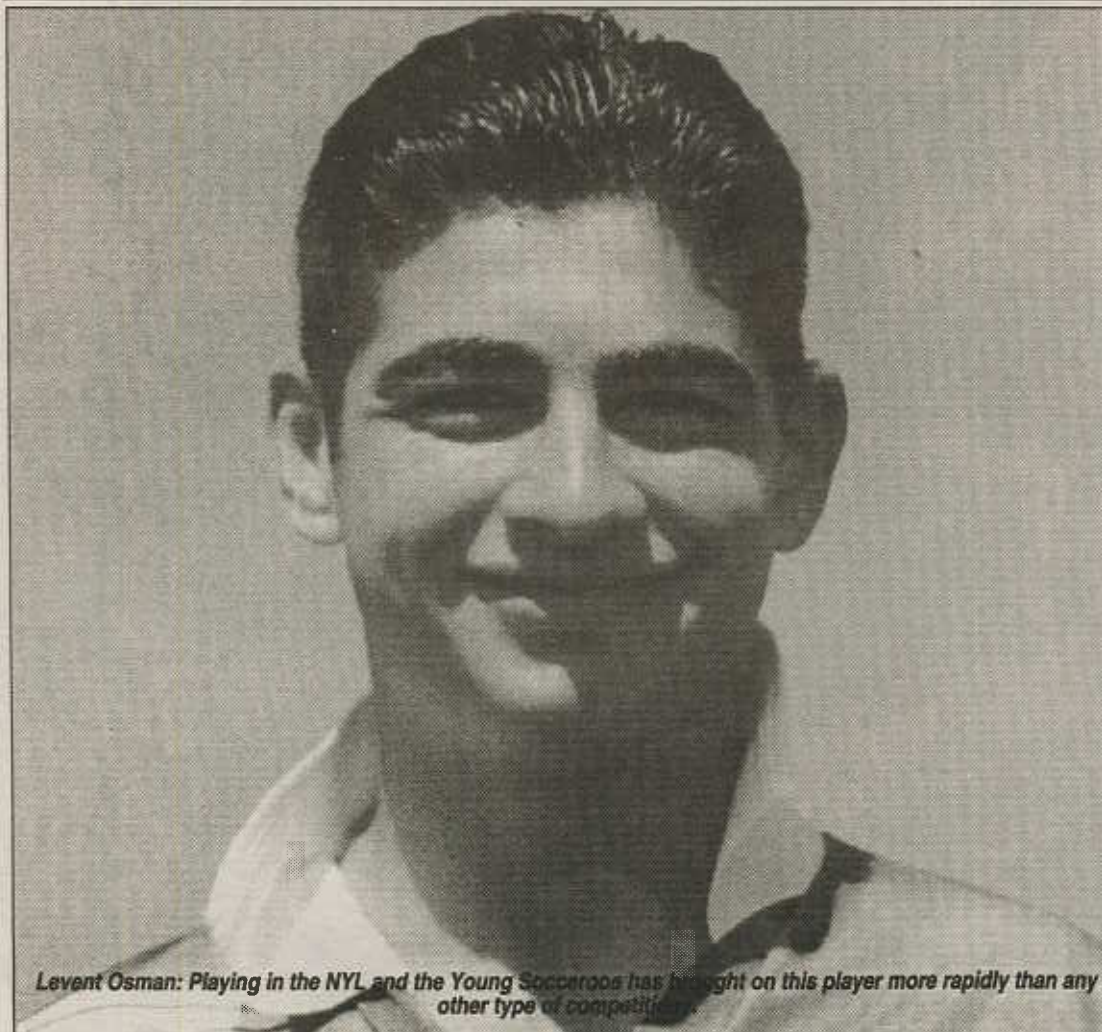


Two days after losing to Argentina, Australia's under 17's met the youth team of one of Argentina's premier clubs San Lorenzo, in Buenos Aires.

The hosts fielded a strong side which included two Argentinian internationals as

well as a Bolivian, but the Aussie boys had the better of the first half with Baldwin coming closest to scoring.

But the older, more physical Argentinians survived a string of attacks including several more near misses from Culina and Baldwin, before a counter attack brought them the only goal of the game in the 62nd minute, a header from Quinteros the Bolivian.



Levent Osman: Playing in the NYL and the Young Socceroos has brought on this player more rapidly than any other type of competition.



Daniel Allison: Continuing his South Melbourne development in NYL Southern Division.

News in Brief



... by BOB BROOKS



'Oztel, look no further for young goalkeepers' so read the headlines in Yorkside about Bradford City's new goalie, Mark Schwarzer. The former Marconi and Eintracht Frankfurt giant had just made his debut for the Bantams.

He's certainly made an immediate impact but it must be realised that in the U.K there are regional versions of the daily newspapers. Each one would make a similar comment about an Australian goalie.

In the Midlands, around Birmingham, they would comment on Mark Bosnich at Aston Villa and John Filan with Coventry. In the South West.

Swindon's Frank Talia would be lauded. Even Jason Kearton with Crewe might be in the frame.

What hope Zlatko Kalac at home with Sydney United.



Heard that an Aussie Rules administrator is over in the U.K, studying Clubs involved in the World Game. He apparently wants to learn how they recruit, their players.

The British Clubs' training methods are coming under scrutiny as are the development ideas.

Glad to know it's happening, but is yet another ARL club looking to get into the Ericsson Cup?



The school holidays around Easter are the new scheduled date for Alan Ball's visit Down Under. He'll be visiting and coaching as part of the Soccer Camps.

International series of programs. Norman Whiteside in the country earlier this year conducted camps with Frank Farina, Francis Awaratefe, and Mathew Bingley amongst others.



Heard on Friday that Tom Sermanni is leaving his post as Australia's Womens coach to join Eddie Thomson in Japan.

The vision comes to mind of Sanfrece Hiroshima players with English language spoken with a Scottish brogue!

"Och aye, Jimmy-san".



Talking of Sermanni his reported salary as Assistant Coach of this J-League Club is \$400,000. Makes OZ-Tel sound cheap, doesn't it.

His move leaves a vacancy at the Australian Women's Soccer Association. Wonder who'll fill that. Jeff Olver maybe. Olver is a former Soccerroo goalkeeper who is in charge of Victoria's Women's team.

It is rare indeed for a goalkeeper to succeed as a coach. Strangely, not many strikers reach the heights when it comes to being the bloke in charge.

As Fred Wall and Dez Marton will tell you, goal stoppers and goal scorers are specialists. Also don't forget that that keepers are supposed to be mad!



A little while ago this column wondered whether players who represented their country at full international level still received 'caps'.

After all we use the expression, "he has been capped XX time for his country".

From Soccer Australia this week came confirmation that caps are still being awarded. There's a little catching up to do but the tradition lives on.

The caps are close fitting nothing like the baggy green ones of Australia cricket fame and certainly quite different to the Baseball style effects.

You wouldn't be able to wear an international cap back to front! Come to think of it they aren't meant to be worn at all.

We'll try to get a picture for ABSW so you can see what a World Game cap looks like.



Les Scheinflug is currently leading the u/17 Joeys on a South American tour. Les has been there so many times now he must be able to speak Spanish, "Si, Si".

In Buenos Aires they

played San Lorenzo. The Joeys lost 0-1 but they were opposed by a host of top line stars. Such names as Borrelli, Passett and Bolivian international Quineros were ranged against them.

Culina (son of the Pumas coach), Dodd and Dear were best for the Aussies.

Against the Argentine u/17s the youngsters held their host to 1-1 until well into stoppage time. Culina put the visitors ahead in the 29th minute from outside the area, after a top cross from Zackis.

It took Argentina until the 70th to level the scores. With minutes to go, Culina almost clinched it when he lobbed the keeper. Somehow, while back peddling, the custodian scrambled the ball over the bar.

They play Chile u/17s tomorrow and Sunday.



Realistically is Oz-Tel going to be able to unhook potential Australian players from their English clubs in January.

The answer is, probably but only with great difficulty. Neil is a vital cog in Millwall's challenge for a return to Division 1. Crystal Palace will surely be reluctant to let Muscat and Veart go as they battle for promotion. West Ham's Stan Lazarides may be too good to release.

What one team should do is sign a third Soccerroo, get them all picked and they can have their games post

poned!



Wonder when an Ericsson Cup club is going to discover a future star from one of the Oceania members.

Masi is playing with Gippsland and he's from Fiji but is he going to shine like a beacon?

Apparently there's a Soloman islander playing in the New Zealand national league who will be offered a European contract. Untopped riches waiting to be discovered?

At least we'd have another hair style to contemplate.



When Britains ITV, the commercial free to air network, showed the Manchester United versus Juventus game live, the audience was a surprise.

Over 47% of available viewers were watching. This comes out at between 12 and 13 million sets tuned in. Probably an audience of 25-30 million.

Eat you heart out, SBS.



BOOK REVIEW

By JODEE ROGERS

A GIRL'S GUIDE TO FOOTY

By TRACEY HOLMES

This is an excellent book written for first timers to the four main codes of Football in Australia or those who have been going to games all their lives.

The book is written in an informative, yet humorous way, that will have you laughing along with the words, as you learn all the rules to the code of Football that interests you most.

Tracey Holmes has used a light hearted approach, and alongside learning the rules of the games you will also find pages devoted to what to wear, how to fit in with the screaming crowds and winning the office tipping competition. The writer recommends that for a Rugby League game dyed blonde curls, long hooped earrings, colourful leg warmers and the team's footy jersey are de rigueur.

She has also included a chapter titled 'Not Just For Blokes' and this explores the issue of women who are also playing these male dominated sports.

There's a chapter devoted to the media and how to become an expert in one week just by following the media, newspapers, radio and TV.

You will find loads of diagrams which help you see the different positioning of players, historical facts, background information and view points from fans of the codes.

Of course, the chapter you will find most interesting will be Chapter 3, Soccer - 'Money, goalies and Gods!' It likens Soccer players to actors in Hollywood and you will find yourself chuckling as you imagine your favourite midfielder in the role of Evil Kneivel because of his high-powered performances!

Her last chapter 'Fulltime - The Final Whistle', reminds everybody that following any code of Football is a passionate pastime and like the players, we, as spectators, should leave the ground without any grudges after the end of the match.

The book retails for \$16.95 and you will find it at all good bookshops. It is published under the Bantam label. A great gift for Christmas for all girls interested in learning more about Football, but I'm sure you will find a few men sneaking a look as well!



TONY VIDMAR



WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR



Departure touched with sadness

Women's soccer was rocked this week with the news that National Coach, Tom Sermanni is off to Japan's prestigious J-League to take up the position of Assistant Coach to former Socceroo chief Eddie Thomson.

Sermanni, the first full-time national women's coach, was approached by Thomson with a deal he couldn't refuse, reportedly worth \$400,000 over the two year contract. The pair head off to the Sanfrece Hiroshima club in

late January.

"It's both exciting and sad," said Sermanni. "Any other time I'd be doing cartwheels about going to the J-League. But it's sad the way things are going in this job. Everything is up and running well. The sport is really going forward and the players are showing such commitment. It's tinged with a great deal of sadness leaving at this particular time."

Sermanni's departure comes at a crucial stage of Australia's preparation - just

over two years before the next world Cup. It is quickly followed by the ultimate challenge of the Olympic Games on home soil in 2000.

Sermanni has said publicly he would like to continue in an advisory capacity, and return to Women's Soccer after the two years if possible.

The AWSA Board is yet to decide its next move on finding a replacement for the most important position in the Women's game.

NATIONAL LEAGUE KICKS OFF

The inaugural Women's National League kicks off this Friday in Canberra, in what is yet another milestone in these whirlwind times for the sport.

The occasion will be marked by a press conference on Thursday, and a celebratory launch on Friday where the naming rights sponsorship of the league will be revealed.

The formation of the National League provides more consistent top quality competition for our elite players, and opens up exciting selection opportunities for those knocking on the door of Australian team representation.

In addition it is the ideal marketing tool, raising the profile of women's soccer to the community at large. "The national league is the ultimate showcase of Australia's foremost female soccer

talent," said AWSA Chief Executive Warren Fisher.

"The best 100 players in the country will be on show in six capital cities in this first year of competition. This gives women's Soccer an unprecedented opportunity to profile our leading players and most importantly to take the game to a wide audience."

A celebrity match will entertain the spectators at 3.00pm Friday before the real football action begins, with Victoria and home side ACT having the honour of contesting the first ever national league fixture (4.00pm kickoff). South Australia is the third team of the southern conference.

ACTWSA is coordinating the supporting entertainment for the weekend, and big crowds are anticipated. All the action can be seen on the Soccer pitches of the AIS.



From (L) Sonia ... Lisa Casagrande. Will be going ...

ACT ACADEMY OF SPORT

Colours: White/Dk Blue/Yellow and Green trim

Shirt No.	Player	Position	Age
1	Amy Beattie	GK	16
1	Tory Turner	GK	24
2	Peita-Clare Hepperlin	U	14
3	Traci Bartlett	D	24
4	Angela Osztrekovic	M	16
5	Amanda Butler	D	22
6	Felicity Cox	M	15
7	Danielle Hepperlin	M	16
8	Amy Wilson	M	16
9	Cindy Doyle	F	20
10	Dior Foxhill	U	16
11	Kim Channing	F	14
12	Mary Pelle	M	19
13	Tal Karp	M	15

Coach: Chris Tanzey
Manager: Chris Conti
Asst Coach: Steve Hozowski
Physio: Ros Penfold



NATIONAL LEAGUE 1996/97 DRAW

Week One: 6-8 December, Canberra AIS, Belconnen.

Southern Conference

Friday 6 Dec	ACT v VIC	4.00pm
Saturday 7 Dec	SA v VIC	3.30pm
Sunday 8 Dec	ACT v SA	11.00am

Week Two: 13-15 December

Sydney
 Sydney United Sports Centre, Edensor Road, Edensor Park.

Northern Conference

Friday 13 Dec	NSW v NNSW	7.00pm
Saturday 14 Dec	NNSW v QLD	2.30pm
Sunday 15 Dec	NSW v QLD	11.00am

Week Three: 7-9 February

Melbourne

Week Four: 14-16 February

Newcastle

Week Five: 21-23 February

Adelaide

Week Six: 28 February - 2 March

Brisbane

PLAYOFFS/FINALS

20-24 March

Canberra



Cindy Doyle - Striker



International ...

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPORTS INSTITUTE

Colours: Red, (home) White/Royal Blue/Red (away)

Shirt No.	Player	Position	Age
1	Lynn White	GK	16
2	Kristy Moore	F	20
3	Renice Reeves	M	16
4	Felicity Forby	M	20
5	Claire Siggery	M/F	18
6	Kim Morris	M/D	15
7	Anna Ruotolo	F	14
8	Karin Prince	M	16
9	Kristyn Swaffer	D	20
10	Jessica Halfpenny	F	15
11	Sharon Black	F	25
12	Bev Hollands	D	27
14	Tiffany Winn	D	23
15	Dianne Alagich	D	17
16	Natalie Thomas	M	17
17	Leanne Trimboli	GK	20
18	Emma Wirkus	GK	16

Coach: Kevin McCormack
Asst Coach: Wendy Carter
Manager: Margaret Morris
Trainer: Avora Finlay



VIVIANNE'S COLLECTION ITC VICTORIA

Colours: White/Royal Blue (home)

Navy/Royal Blue (away)

Shirt No.	Player	Pos.	Age
1	Caroline Lynch	GK	26
2	Louisa Bisby	D	17
3	Joanne Satler	D	18
4	Bronwyn Carey	D	15
5	Daniela Digiammarco	D	20
6	Kate Walker	M/D	24
7	Leanne Hamilton	M	27
8	Lizzy Claydon	M/F	24
9	Leigh Terek	F	17
10	Kathy Zacharopoulos	F	18
11	Zoe Nolan	M	17
12	Natalie Bruzzese	D	17
13	Kirsten Shuttleworth	M	19
14	Caroline McEvoy	D	17
15	Gabby Angelucci	F	21
16	Emma Rea	F/M	16
17	Claire Hepper	D	17
18	Emma Bracken	GK	19
19	Melissa Barbieri	M	16

Coach: Jeff Olver
Asst Coach: Nicky Leitch
Trainer: Marc Leitch
Manager: Katrina Richter



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015 951 491



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



1997 LIBERTADORES CUP DRAW

The 1997 edition of the Libertadores Cup, the major championship at club level in South America will kick off on February 19 and will conclude with the final on August 14.

Ten teams have already qualified plus the current title holder, River Plate of Argentina who will start their defence of the Cup in the second round.

The other clubs already

qualified are:

Argentina: Velez Sarsfield (Champion) and Racing Club (runner up)

Brazil: Cruzeiro Belo Horizonte and Winner of the Brazilian Cup.



Chile: Colo Colo (Champion)
Colombia: Deportivo Cali (Champion) and Millonarios (runner up)
Ecuador: Nacional (Champion)
Peru: Sporting Cristal (Champion)
Venezuela: Minervén (Champion) and Mineros (runner up)

The teams from Bolivia and Uruguay are currently involved in the Pre Libertadores League. Two will advance to the championship's first round.

The groups for the 1997 Libertadores Cup is the following:

Group 1: Bolivia and Paraguay
Group 2: Argentina and Ecuador
Group 3: Chile and Venezuela
Group 4: Brazil and Peru
Group 5: Colombia and Uruguay

FIRST ROUND DRAW

Group 1: Bolivia and Paraguay

February 19: Guarani v Cerro Porteno, Bolivia 1 v Bolivia 2

February 25: Bolivia 2 v Cerro Porteno

February 28: Bolivia 1 v Guarani

March 4: Bolivia 1 v Cerro Porteno

March 7: Bolivia 2 v Guarani

March 12: Cerro Porteno v Guarani, Bolivia 2 v Bolivia 1

March 18: Guarani v Bolivia

March 21: Cerro Porteno v Bolivia 2

April 8: Guarani v Bolivia

April 13: Cerro Porteno v Bolivia 1

Group 2: Argentina and Ecuador

February 19: Ecuador 2 v Nacional

February 26: Racing Club v Velez Sarsfield

February 27: Ecuador 2 v Racing Club

March 2: Nacional v Racing Club, Ecuador 2 v Velez Sarsfield

March 12: Nacional v Ecuador 2, Velez Sarsfield v Racing Club

April 8: Racing Club v Ecuador 2

April 11: Velez Sarsfield v Ecuador 2

April 18: Velez Sarsfield v Nacional

April 21: Racing Club v Nacional

Group 3: Chile and Venezuela

February 19: Minervén v Mineros, Chile v Colo Colo

February 25: Chile 2 v Mineros

February 27: Colo Colo v Mineros

March 4: Chile 2 v Mineros

March 6: Colo Colo v Mineros

March 12: Colo Colo v Chile 2, Mineros v Mineros

March 18: Mineros v Chile 2

March 20: Mineros v Chile 2

March 25: Mineros v Colo Colo

March 27: Mineros v Colo Colo

Group 4: Brazil and Peru

February 19: Cruzeiro v Brazil 1, Sporting Cristal v Peru

February 25: Peru 2 v Cruzeiro

February 28: Sporting Cristal v Cruzeiro

March 4: Peru 2 v Brazil 1

March 7: Sporting Cristal v Brazil 1

March 12: Brazil 1 v Cruzeiro, Peru 2 v Sporting Cristal

March 18: Cruzeiro v Peru 2

March 21: Brazil 1 v Peru 2

April 11: Cruzeiro v Sporting Cristal

April 15: Brazil 1 v Sporting Cristal

Group 5: Colombia and Uruguay

February 26: Uruguay 1 v Uruguay 2

February 27: Deportivo Cali v Millonarios

March 4: Uruguay 2 v Millonarios

March 7: Uruguay 1 v Millonarios

March 11: Deportivo Cali v Uruguay 1

March 14: Millonarios v Uruguay 1

March 16: Uruguay 2 v Uruguay 1, Millonarios v Deportivo Cali

April 8: Deportivo Cali v Uruguay 2

April 11: Millonarios v Uruguay 2

April 15: Uruguay 2 v Deportivo Cali

April 18: Uruguay 1 v Deportivo Cali

SHOCKS IN Brazil playoffs

Cruzeiro and Guarani, which finished first and second respectively in the first stage of the Brazilian championship, were both soundly beaten in their quarter-final, first leg games last week.

A tired-looking Cruzeiro, playing its 78th competitive game this year, was beaten 3-0 away by Portuguesa while Guarani lost 3-1 away to Goias.

Portuguesa, which sneaked into the last eight with a win when the two teams above both lost, dominated its game and could have added to their tally.

Striker Rodrigo, one of Brazilian soccer's most impressive revelations this year, opened the scoring in the fifth minute of injury time at the end of the first half.

Two goals by substitute Alex Alves in a five minute spell in the second half buried Cruzeiro, which had defender Celio Lucio sent off for wildly kicking at an opponent.

Cruzeiro, from the city of Belo Horizonte, is one of Brazilian soccer's traditional powers, having won the South American Libertadores Cup once and the Supercup twice. However, it has never won the Brazilian championship.

This year it has also taken part in the Copa Brasil, which it won, the Supercup, where it has reached the final, as well as the Brazilian championship and a regional competition, which it also won.

However, its season looks set for a frustrating end as it was beaten 1-0 at home by Argentina's Velez Sarsfield in the first leg of the Supercup final.

Guarani, where volatile president Beto Zini has made headlines by employing ten coaches this year, was sunk by two goals scored by Goias striker Alex.

Argentine Apertura Championship

Lanus the revelation of the current Argentine League second phase is the provisional leader of the competition after its 2-0 victory over Newell's Old Boys of Rosario, River Plate, with one game in hand is one point behind Lanus.

Lanus, playing attacking football defeated Newell's with goals from brilliant midfielder Ariel Ibagaza, who was a member of the Argentine U20 World Cup winning side in Qatar, and Ariel Lopez.

Meanwhile, struggling Argentine giant Boca Juniors, thrashed Huracan, 6-0, in the local derby, playing its best match of the tournament.

Julio Torresani, Sebastina Rambert (penalty), defender Nestor Fabbri, Gabriel Cedres, Diego Latorre and youngster Juan

Riguelme scored for Carlos Salvador Bilardo's team.

Independiente, who started the league in great form, under the guidance of Cesar Luis Menotti suffered another blow when it went 1-0 down against Estudiantes de La Plata.

In another attractive match, San Lorenzo and Ferro Carril Oeste drew 2-2, Uruguayan striker Sebastian Abreu and Ariel Montenegro scored for San Lorenzo while Diego Bustos and Luciano Nicotra netted for Ferro.

Other results: Col 2 Velez Sarsfield 1, Racing Club 0 Deportivo Espanol 0, Platense 2 Banfield 0, Gimnasia y Esgrima of Jujuy 1 Gimnasia y Esgrima of La Plata 0, Rosario Central 1 Union 3.

MERCOSUR CUP

The South American Football Confederation announced the formation of a new international competition at club level on the continent with representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile all countries involved in the Mercosur Economic Market.

Brazil and Argentina will participate with five teams each, while Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile will take part with two each.

The first Mercosur Cup will be played during August and December 1997, while the second edition, in 1998, will involve the 1997 champion plus another 15 teams selected from the respective national championships or by invitation.

The first 16 teams for the 1997 tournaments are:

Argentina: Boca Juniors,

River Plate, Racing Club, Independiente and San Lorenzo.

Brazil: Vasco da Gama, Flamengo, Corinthians, Palmeiras and Sao Paulo.

Uruguay: Penarol and Nacional.

Paraguay: Cerro Porteno and Olimpia.

Chile: Colo Colo and Universidad de Chile.

It will be a knock out competition through a home and away system, and the grand final will be a play-off with the best of five matches to take the Cup.



Sebastian Rambert: With Boca Juniors in the Mercosur Cup.



TABLE - V F

TEAM	P	W	D	L	G	A
Lanus	14	9	5	0	21	8
River Plate	13	10	1	2	34	13
Independiente	14	7	4	3	23	16
Racing Club	14	7	4	3	22	16
Newell's Old Boys	14	6	4	4	21	17
San Lorenzo	14	6	3	5	20	18
Boca Juniors	14	6	3	5	27	22
Velez Sarsfield	14	5	5	4	27	24
Rosario Central	14	5	5	4	23	21
Gimnasia La Plata	1	5	4	5	12	13
Platense	1	5	4	5	12	13
Colo	1	5	4	5	12	13
Gimnasia y Esgrima Jujuy	1	5	4	5	12	13
Ferro Carril Oeste	1	5	4	5	12	13
Huracan	1	5	4	5	12	13
Estudiantes de La Plata	1	5	4	5	12	13
Union	1	5	4	5	12	13
Banfield	1	5	4	5	12	13
Deportivo Espanol	1	5	4	5	12	13
Huracan of Corrientes	1	5	4	5	12	13

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World Cup to England?

The FA are to hold further talks with the Government in a bid to take the 2006 World Cup to England which would also mark the 40th anniversary of winning the final against the then West Germany 4-2 at Wembley.

Following the success of Euro 96, and figures indicating that a 25% rise in the economy through tourism and associated activities has been reported. A delegation from the FA, including Glenn Hoddle, has held talks with Prime Minister John Major in Downing Street ahead of next February's World Cup Qualifier with Italy, (a game

which both Stuart and yours truly will be attending).

Germany also want to host the tournament after they last held it in 1974, claiming a reciprocal agreement exists between the DFB and FA, whereby they supported the bid for England to host the Euro 96 Championships in return for the FA supporting the DFB bid for the World Cup 2006. They now accuse the English sporting body of 'bad faith'.

John Major is reported as offering his whole-hearted support in the latest news but Africa are also strongly tipped to make a bid for the games.

Drug abuse down in UK Soccer

Jay Notley, the 18 year old midfielder from Charlton Athletic, has tested positive for drugs in the latest scandal to hit the British tabloids and has been suspended when traces of cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy were returned in the test.

However, he was the only positive return in over 300 tests undertaken but he has become the third Charlton player to be caught using drugs in the last 20 months.

An FA spokesperson said: "Cannabis and ecstasy are class A drugs and cocaine is a performance enhancing drug too. It's the first time we have

come across a cocktail of drugs like this so it is seen as a very serious matter." He concluded that the FA believe they are winning the fight to clean up drug abuse in the game and stated: "Two seasons ago there were 12 positive results from 272 tests. Last season in was 7 from the same number. This year we have stepped up the testing to around 500 and this is the first positive return from the 300 plus so far taken. Our aim is to focus on the professionals and in particular the youngsters who are most likely to be at risk from drugs."



Maine Road still in turmoil

Phil Neal has asked Manchester City to 'act honourably' and declare whether they want him and see him as their long term future manager. Neal is the former Bolton and Cardiff boss and is worried about rumours of Howard Wilkinson being approached.

Wilkinson has been out of football for the last three months, and is enjoying a well earned rest, since leaving Elland Road. Now could be the time he wants to get back into management.

Oldham boss, former Everton star Graeme Sharpe, has told Maine Road officials they can forget signing his Norwegian star Gunnar Halle and added to City's woes when saying: "They are the last club I'd sell him to!"



Radio Waves

If you didn't listen to 'Soccer Stop' last Wednesday night, you missed all the round-ups of local Ericsson Cup matches, interviews with the Coaches and players plus our studio guest Ron Tilsed - former Arsenal reserve 'keeper. Then there was our 'Mystery Guest'. Live interview from the UK, former Canberra Cosmos 'keeper Steve Mantone, now playing for West Ham United Nations in the east end of London. Tomorrow night is going to be something special with not one, but two studio guests and a rather special interview from the UK, live

of course.

Wednesday nights 8-10pm, 'Soccer Stop' on Radio UNO/One 1620am in the Sydney metro area, 99.3FM in the Sutherland/Wollongong region and 87.7FM in Katoomba and associated stations around NSW. Stay tuned for all the latest breaking news, the major stories and perhaps announcement of a very special event, a first in Australia as far as we know, that may just be taking place in the next few weeks.



VICENZA AHEAD IN ITALY

Another win to Vicenza, and draws in key matches, has the underestimated club on top of the Serie A table. The headline Milan derby ended in a draw, and Juventus and Udinese had their game postponed.

Results and Summaries:

Bologna 3 Atalanta 1 (og 22, Kolyvanov 55, Bresciani 57), (Inzaghi 78).

Bologna, promoted this season from Serie B, registered their third win in a row to lift them to second place on the table. The ever improving northerners proved too good for Atalanta, led by a best-on-ground performance by striker Kolyvanov. Atalanta's cause was not helped by the sending off of their Uruguayan defender Herrera, giving them 10 men for the remaining 30 minutes of the game.

Cagliari 1 Napoli 1 (Muzzi 12), (Pecchia 90).

A last-gasp effort by Napoli defender Pecchia enabled Napoli to salvage a point from their away visit to the Sardinians. Cagliari scored early and held off their opponents for the rest of the game, with a lapse in stoppage time costing them a much needed win. Napoli remain in touch with the league leaders, whilst Cagliari are shipwrecked on 8 league points from 10 games.

Fiorentina 1 Piacenza 1 (Robbiati 27), (Luiso 65pen).

Piacenza were happy to come out of their visit to Florence with equal points. A foul by Fiorentina defender Firicano on Piacenza midfielder Tentoni in the box resulted in a penalty, duly converted by 7 goal forward Luiso. The home fans whistled their team, and coach Ranieri admitted he may have made a mistake with an early substitution of star Rui Costa. With the Portuguese player off, Fiorentina seemed to fall apart, leading to the penalty. A chance for full points at home went begging.

Lazio 1 Sampdoria 1 (Negro 82), (Mancini 6).

Sampdoria golden boy Mancini was both the hero and villain in this clash in Rome, by scoring an early goal, and then giving away a goal to his marker eight minutes from full-time. Lazio played with vigour, forcing Samp defender Pesaresi to concede 2 yellow card offences in 3 minutes, to be sent off in the 79th minute. Inevitably Lazio scored the leveller soon after. A home win would have been valuable for the Romans, as they are still low on the league table with 12 points.

Milan 1 Inter 1 (Baggio 3), (Djorkaeff 12pen).

80,000 fans packed the San Siro for this much anticipated battle between last season's Champions and this season's contenders. An early goal by Baggio stunned Inter three minutes in, who were then awarded a penalty nine minutes later. An offside Zamorano, not signalled, went down in the penalty area after being brushed by Maldini. Djorkaeff converted, and there was to be no further

THEY'RE HARD TO TELL APART!

Leeds United thought they had found a ten year old protege last week only to have their hopes dashed as it was discovered the 'boy wonder' is in fact a 'girl wonder'.

Del Morton was spotted by Leeds community officer Cec Podd. She was training with her schoolmates and he thought her midfield skills were



so good that the club wanted Ms Morton to come for a trial. He added: "She was just one of the lads and her movements didn't betray her."

Del, short for Delana, cannot sign for the youth scheme as it is for 'boys only' but she has signed on for the new centre of excellence for girls.

GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD SOCCER

By now, most of you have probably heard a whisper about the Guinness Book of World Soccer 2nd Edition. We have mentioned it in the past, but what exactly is it? you may well ask. Actually it's the history of the game in some 150 countries around the World contained in over 900 pages packed with information and statistics.

The larger countries have every international match listed, until time of publication of course, with dates, scorers and what type of match it was: World Cup Qualifier, European Championship, Friendly, Home International or whatever.

The author, Guy Oliver, was born in Sri Lanka and is a television producer, working on such shows as Futbol Mundial, the acclaimed magazine programme now seen in over 100 countries around the world. His only failing in life is that he is a Crystal Palace supporter!

This book retails for around \$55 in Australia and if you cannot find it on the shelf of your local bookstore, give them the following identification number and will be able to order it in for you at no extra charge: ISBN 0-85112-654-5.

A truly magnificent book acclaimed by such publications as World Soccer, The (English) Independent and The (London) Observer, why should we be any different?, because books published by Guinness have to meet a very high standard of perfection and this one certainly does. Marvellous.

goals in the game. Baggio, who managed to start the game, but not finish it, missed two good scoring chances before being replaced by Savicevic 10 minutes from time. Boban had an open goal which he managed to miss near the end of the match, and the derby sides shared the points. Milan are still mid-table, Inter third. Parma 0 Roma 0

An uneventful match at Parma's home stadium petered out to a tame goal-less draw. There was minimal action with both teams only managing a combined total of seven shots on goal within the 90 minutes. Former Italian team star Bruno Conti was happy to be there though, with his son Daniele coming on as a substitute for Roma. The 17 year old saw three minutes of action, and big brother Lazio earlier this season.

Perugia 3 Verona 1 (Pizzi 3, Rapajic 24, Artistic 75), (De Vitis 68).

Perugia constructed a perfect game to take full points at home against struggling Verona. Leading by 2 goals at half time, they then conceded a goal to Verona midfielder De Vitis. However, two minutes later, Perugia sub Artistic killed the game off with their 3rd goal. Verona coach Cagni has definite problems, while Perugia find themselves on equal points with Milan.

Vicenza 2 Reggiana 0 (Ambrosetti 34, 76).

Two goals to Vicenza midfielder Ambrosetti against cellar dwellers Reggiana, and the ever improving side are Serie A "champions", at least for this week. Their coach, Francesco Guidolin is happy, but not getting carried away with his side's success, "I am a realist, and know the true championship forces are yet to emerge," he said after their victory. Reggiana however, look bound for relegation, and it seems the first casualty will be their coach Mircea Lucescu. At time of writing, his future was still being considered by club officials, with Francesco Oddo being touted as his likely replacement.

Udinese Juventus

This game was rescheduled to December 11 due to Juventus' participation in the Toyota Cup final.

Top Goalscorers:

8 - Inzaghi (Atalanta), Balbo (Roma), 7 - Weah (Milan), Luiso (Piacenza), 6 - Mancini (Sampdoria), Otero (Vicenza).

Other News:

• Juventus have signed Portuguese international defender Manuel Marques Teixeira Dimas, from Benfica.

• Napoli are demonstrating their improvement, having scored against each opponent this season so far except Parma, who defeated them 3-0.

• Abel Balbo needs only 3 more goals to reach Marco Van Basten's record as the highest scoring foreign player in a Serie A season.

• A surprising report from Italy, with talk of Manchester United making an offer to J-League club Jubilo Iwata for Salvatore "Toto" Schillaci. The 1990 World Cup star is 32 years old this week, but has scored 56 goals in 70 matches in the last 2 and a half years. He would like to go back to Europe to be closer to his children, and United feel they are short a goalscorer after recent disappointing results.

FORFAR

BY STUART JONES

Ground:	Station Park
Address:	Carseview Road, Forfar, Tayside
Railway Station:	Dundee or Arbroath (both 14 miles)
Founded:	1885
Admitted to League:	1921
Ground Capacity:	8,372
Seats:	719
Pitch Size:	115yd *69yd
Largest Gate:	10,780 v Rangers Scot Cup 2nd Rd 2 Feb 1970
Biggest Win:	14-1 v Lindertis Scot Cup 1st Rd 1 Sept 1988
Heaviest Defeat:	2-12 v Kings Park Div 2, 2nd Jan 1930
Nickname:	Sky Blues or Loons
Colours:	Sky Blues with navy stripe
Honours:	League: Second Division 1983-84 Third Division: 1994-95 C Division: 1948-49

History: Previously known as Angus Athletic's second eleven, Forfar established a separate identity in May 1885. The club developed Station Park in 1888 after using Manor Park previously. The stand roof came off before it was used and five years later the stand was blown down in a gale. That same year they considered moving after the next door neighbours asked for tenancy. However they stayed put and are there to this day. In 1919 the club built another stand and yet again the roof was blown off, this time just before they entered the League in 1921. The future King George the Fifth visited the ground to watch a Forfar game. In 1956 the club bought the ground, and in 1957 the club saw more damage done to the ground by wind. On Jan 31, 1959 the club opened a new stand for a game against Rangers. It was built to withstand the elements the only problem being many people complained about the angles being all wrong for watching football! On 11 October 1971 the club played its first home game under floodlights versus Aberdeen. Last year the club were relegated to the basement of Scottish League football. The ground today seems windproof but the football on the field seems to be unable to even cause a breeze on some days.

Brighton to share with Gillingham

English third division club Brighton and Hove Albion announced last week it had signed a deal to share Gillingham's ground for the next two seasons while a new ground is built in the Brighton area.

The south coast club, which is threatened with extinction just 13 years after playing Manchester United in the FA Cup final, announced in a statement issued by chairman Bill Archer that he also welcomed the FA's offer of independent arbitration in an attempt to break the deadlock over the club's future.

The stay-away chairman,

deeply unpopular with home fans and who no longer attends home matches, is appealing to supporters responsible for recent disturbances "to take their finger off the self-destruct button and get behind the team."

Archer concludes his statement by emphasising that the third division club is not going out of business and will have a new stadium for the 21st century.

Brighton's announcement that it is to ground-share with second division Gillingham follows rejections by both Portsmouth and Fulham to give it a temporary home. The

Football League has consistently stated that it cannot sanction any ground-share unless Brighton has firm plans in place for a new ground in the Brighton area and the south coast.

This must include planning permission and so far Brighton's proposals for a new stadium at Toad's Hole Valley have met with failure from the local council.

The club, which played in the old first division for four years at the start of the 1980s is currently bottom of the third division and last week was dumped out of the first round of the FA Cup by non-league Sudbury Town.

PSG BACK ON TOP

Paris Saint-Germain snatched back the lead in France from Monaco when they came from behind to beat lowly Caen 3-1 away.

With Brazilian Leonardo inspirational in midfield, PSG scored through Panama's Julio Cesar Dely Valdes, his eighth league goal of the season, and midfielders Vincent Guerin and Bruno N'Gotty.

Chadian playmaker Japhet N'Doram missed a twice taken penalty but ended up with a hat-trick as Nantes crushed Cannes 5-1.

Monaco won 1-0 at Montpellier to hold a two-point lead for 24 hours but PSG now have 42 points to Monaco's 41 after 20 matches.

Bordeaux, also 1-0 winners on Thursday against Metz, and Strasbourg, who beat Lyon 3-0 with two goals by striker David Zitelli, share third place on 34, with Jean-Pierre Papin's team ahead on goal difference.

Champions Auxerre won their first league match in five 1-0 away to Lille with a goal by striker Lilian Lastandes. They entertain Glasgow Rangers in their final European champions' league game tomorrow (Wednesday).

PORTO DROPS COMPLAINT

Portuguese champions Porto dropped their complaint for assault against Liberia's World footballer of the year George Weah after UEFA said the AC Milan striker would face at least a one match suspension.

Weah, also FIFA's holder of the fair play award, headbutted the Porto captain Jorge Costa after their Champions League match on November 20. Weah pleaded extenuating circumstances due to continual racial abuse from Costa.

UEFA said it may suspend him for longer depending on the outcome of its ongoing inquiry.

"The initial judgement by UEFA has already gone halfway to producing a justifiable penalty and we believe that they will suspend him for longer by the end of their inquiry," Porto's lawyer, said.

He added that it was up to Costa if he wanted to pursue his own assault charge against Weah.

Asked about the incident at Porto, where Costa suffered a broken nose, Weah said on Friday: "I made a serious and stupid mistake, creating a situation that is difficult for me and for AC Milan."

(continued on next page)

Weird and Wonderful

BY STUART JONES

The League expanded to 14 teams with Stoke rejoining the League and new boys Darwen also entering. Darwen had been formed in 1870 and in 1878/9 had caused a stir in the FA Cup by making it to the quarter finals. There they had played Old Etonians and with 10 minutes to go were 1-5 down before coming back to draw 5-5, finally losing to them in a second replay. Darwen's first League season was not successful and they finished last, three points behind Stoke. Champions for the first time were Sunderland who did not drop a home point all season and scored 55 goals, conceding only 8, at home. Preston were again runners up, closely followed by Bolton. Previous winners Everton had a poor season and finished fifth. In the FA Cup West Bromwich Albion (who had come third last in the League) took on fourth placed Aston Villa. The Baggies had defeated surprise package Nottingham Forest after two replays in the semis whilst Villa had defeated League Champions Sunderland (who in the second round actually lost to Accrington but the game was replayed after protest). The Final was played at the Oval. The game started and Villa were expected to show supremacy up front. However the Albion backline broke down this combination early on, and if Villa did shoot it was straight to rival keeper Reader. By half time Geddes and Nicholls had made it 2-0 to Albion. Reynolds scored in the second half to see the scoreboard read 3-0 when the final whistle was blown by the referee. All round it had been a great performance by WBA against their Birmingham rivals, Villa and they were deserved winners from match reports at the time.



1891-92 League Table Football League

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	26	13	0	0	55	11	8	0	5	38	25	42
Preston NE	26	12	0	1	42	8	6	1	6	19	23	37
Bolton W	26	9	2	2	29	14	8	0	5	22	23	36
Aston Villa	26	10	0	3	63	23	5	0	8	26	33	30
Everton	26	8	2	3	32	22	4	2	7	17	27	28
Wolves	26	8	2	3	34	15	3	2	8	25	31	26
Burnley	26	9	1	3	34	14	2	3	8	15	31	26
Notts Co	26	9	3	1	41	12	2	1	10	14	39	26
Blackburn R	26	8	3	2	39	26	2	3	8	19	39	26
Derby Co	26	6	3	4	28	18	4	1	8	18	34	24
Accrington	26	7	3	3	24	20	1	1	11	16	58	20
WBA	26	6	3	4	37	24	0	3	10	14	34	18
Stoke	26	5	0	8	19	19	0	4	9	19	42	14
Darwen	26	4	1	8	31	43	0	2	11	7	69	11

Scottish champions were Dumbarton as they finished on 37 points, two ahead of Celtic, and three ahead of Heart of Midlothian. The Scottish FA Cup saw Celtic take on the team that had played in the English FA Cup, Queens Park. Celtic won the Cup for the first time in the 19 year history of the competition by defeating Queens Park 5-1.

FWLER HAPPY AT LIVERPOOL

Striker Robbie Fowler has pledged his long-term future to Liverpool and has no desire to try his luck on the continent.

Fowler, 21, says it is the influx of foreign stars that makes him want to stay in England.

"I've never thought about going anywhere else, I'm very happy at Liverpool," he said.

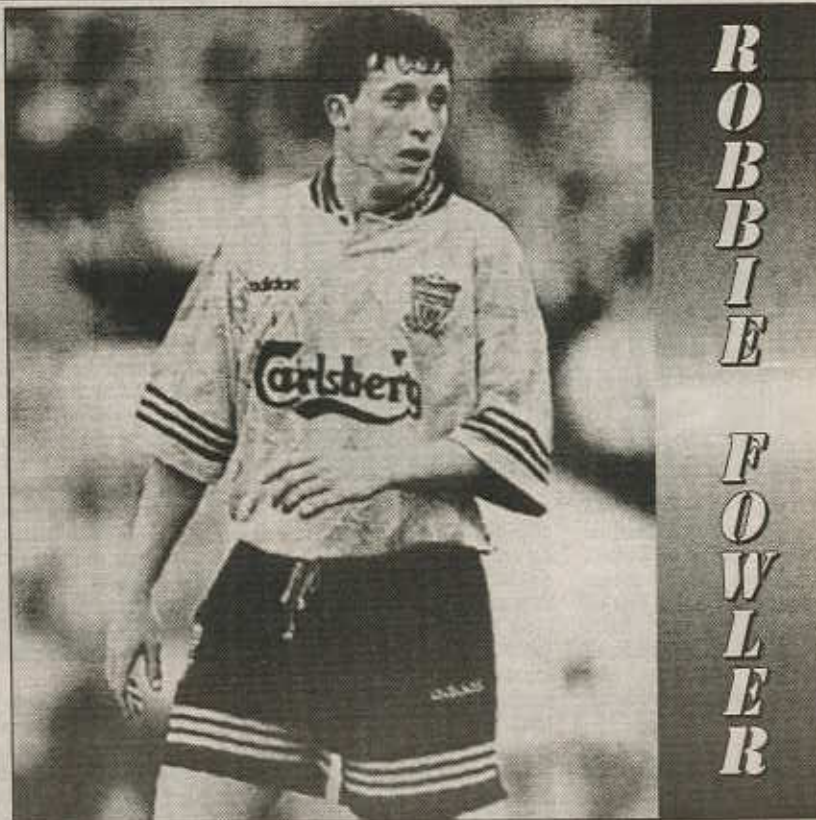
"Top players are coming over here now so it shows that we are going in the right direction and what a good league it will turn out to be.

"I don't see any reason why I should want to leave to play in another league as the premier league is going to be one of the best in the world.

"The atmosphere in the grounds is first class, you play against good teams and players. The likes of the Vialli's (how many European trophies has he won?) - to play against these guys is incentive enough to stay here."

Fowler also warned the rest of the league that Liverpool is back to its best.

"After a shaky patch it's getting on the right track again. And with the squad we've got it should be, just look at the players we had on the bench in the League Cup tie against Arsenal: Collymore, Redknapp and Matteo.



ROBBIE FOWLER

Robbie Fowler: No desire to try his luck on Continental Europe.

"That says it all. Hopefully we'll start winning major trophies and no-one will want to leave."

Fowler has been named in the 50 players short-listed for

the European Player of the Year award and is delighted by the recognition.

"Even though I don't think I'll win it, it's still nice to be there," he said.

"I only made two appearances as sub for England in Euro 96. It's nice to be recognised all around Europe for what I do for Liverpool."

UK STORIES

WRIGHT ON TARGET AGAIN

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger praised his team's fighting spirit after they defied the odds to beat Newcastle 2-1 and replace them at the top of the English premier league today.

The Londoners were reduced to 10 men for the second successive match after skipper Tony Adams was sent off for grappling with his England teammate Alan Shearer midway through the first half. Wenger replaced forward John Hartson with defender Andy Linighan to fill the defensive hole left by Adams' departure.

Arsenal survived an almost constant bombardment from the league leaders to escape with three points after Ian Wright grabbed what proved to be the winner.

For a while in the closing stages, the Gunners had only nine men on the field after Lee Dixon, who had put his side ahead with an 11th minute header, was stretchered off. He returned to the fray for the last few minutes.

Shearer, who had scored in every home league match he has played for Newcastle since his world record transfer from Blackburn, maintained that

record with the equaliser after 21 minutes.

The odds were tipped

Newcastle's way after Adams dismissal but, despite attacking almost non-stop for the rest of the match, they could not break down Arsenal again.

Wright, playing alone up front, scored with Arsenal's only real break of the second half although he was lucky to control a mishit Paul Merson shot that ran into his path. He took his 19th goal of the season with style, firing a left-footed low cross-shot wide of goalkeeper Smicek.

Arsenal's title odds were cut from 6-1 to 4-1 following the win but the title race is still wide open, with any one of seven teams in with a chance.

One of those must be fourth-placed Wimbledon who stretched their unbeaten run to 17 matches with a 1-0 win over bottom-placed Nottingham Forest who have now gone 14 league matches without a win.

Robbie Earle's 37th minute goal gave Wimbledon their victory and puts them on 28 points, the same as third-placed Liverpool who played yesterday.

Champions Manchester United warmed up for their Champions' League clash against Rapid Vienna with a 3-1 win over Leicester who had beaten a weakened United side 2-0 in the League Cup last week.

A full-strength United took



Duncan Ferguson: His equaliser for Everton wasn't enough to save the game.

75 minutes to break down Leicester's resilience, Nicky Butt scoring.

Norwegian Ole Solskjaer and Butt added two more in the last five minutes, with Nicky Lennon netting a last-minute consolation for Leicester.

The shock result of the day was at Goodison where Sunderland, without a goal in six away league matches, won 3-1 against Everton who had not lost for eight games.

Sunderland manager Peter Reid saw his side go ahead against the team he used to play for through Craig Russell

after 54 minutes. Substitute Duncan Ferguson headed an equaliser after 64 minutes but two late goals from 18-year-old Michael Bridges gave Sunderland the points.

Blackburn's recent revival continued with a 2-1 win over Southampton who had Dutchman Ulrich Van Gobbel sent off after 81 minutes. Six minutes later Chris Sutton scored Rovers winner which lifted them to 18th, their highest position since August 26.

Coventry, who lost 2-1 at Derby, slipped to 19th just one place and one point

Monaco for Estonia versus Scotland

Scotland's rescheduled World Cup qualifier against Estonia will be played in Monaco on February 11.

Originally Estonia suggested the match be played in Cyprus but Scotland firmly rejected the plan.

The original game on October 9 ended in farce when it was stopped after three seconds after the Estonian team failed to turn up for a rescheduled kick-off.

FIFA later ruled that the Estonians weren't given enough warning about the earlier time and said the game should be replayed.



WIMBLEDON'S TRIUMPH CONTINUES

Marcus Gayle scored the only goal as Wimbledon knocked out the League Cup holders Aston Villa 1-0 last week, to qualify for the last eight, extending League and Cup run to 16 matches.

Gayle scored right on the stroke of halftime, squeezing the ball home from a tight angle to secure Wimbledon's place in the last eight.

Gayle's goal came against the run of play as Villa

peppered shots on O'Sullivan in the Wimbledon goal.

Villa's nightmare ended when English international central defender Gareth Southgate had to be carried off towards the final whistle.

Oxford United, winner of the 1986 League Cup, deserved to grab a replay against Southampton.

Swivelled and shot in the final minute past former England keeper Chris Woods.

Southampton had looked

like going through after defender Richard Dryden's stunning left footed shot from the edge of the penalty area in the 26th minute gave them the lead.

Ipswich beat second division giantkiller Gillingham 1-0, with a goal from 19-year-old striker Richard Naylor. Gillingham was reduced to 10 men towards the end when Simon Ratcliff was sent off for elbowing Adam Tanner.

LEAGUE CUP SHOCKS IN ENGLAND

Last week Manchester United, league leader Newcastle and second placed Arsenal all lost in the League Cup on Wednesday while Tottenham were thrashed 6-1 at first division Bolton.

To complete the fourth round shocks, second division Stockport grabbed a 1-1 draw at West Ham.

Newcastle lost 3-1 in a local derby at Middlesbrough while Arsenal was beaten 4-2 at Anfield by Liverpool. Manchester United went under 2-0 at Leicester to record its fifth defeat in their last seven games.

Middlesbrough's reward for beating Newcastle is a quarter-final home draw against Liverpool. Bolton will entertain Wimbledon, Leicester visit first division Ipswich and West Ham or Stockport are at home to Southampton or Oxford.

Manchester United's unhappy run continued when a side containing only two first team regulars was denied a place in the last eight by a Leicester team inspired by young Emile Heskey.

Heskey, who was not even born when Leicester last

reached this stage of the competition more than 20 years ago, set up the first goal for Steve Claridge and then clinched victory by scoring the second himself.

Although missing seven members of his first team squad through injury, United manager Alex Ferguson, his mind seemingly on other competitions, still opted to leave out the fit quintet of Eric Cantona, Peter Schmeichel, Nicky Butt, David Beckham and Ronnie Johnsen.

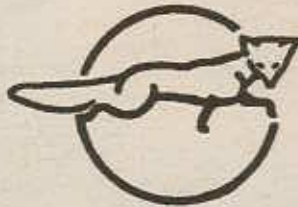
Italy's Fabrizio Ravanelli delivered the knockout punch as Middlesbrough sent Newcastle packing at the Riverside Stadium.

Alan Shearer equalised his personal scoring record of six goals in successive matches when he headed Newcastle level on the stroke of halftime.

But Mikkel Beck restored Middlesbrough's lead in the 61st minute and Ravanelli wrapped up victory a minute

from the end to avenge a recent league defeat.

Boro skipper Derek Whyte had given his side a 27th-minute lead, stabbing home his first goal of the season from six metres when Newcastle failed to clear a corner.



At Anfield, Robbie

Fowler scored twice with Arsenal playing out the last 34 minutes with 10 men after Steve Bould was sent off.

But his 12th goal of the season which gave Liverpool the lead came in controversial circumstances.

Fowler rattled the ball home from the penalty spot six minutes before half-time after referee Alan Wilkie had ruled that Lee Dixon had handled.

The Arsenal players protested furiously after the incident, but Fowler remained cool to put Liverpool in the driving seat.

Steve McManaman had levelled for the home side in the 25th minute after Ian

Wright's opener for Arsenal.

Liverpool extended its advantage with the third goal coming just seven minutes after the break and again it was Fowler who found the target after a magnificent move.

Wright made it 3-2 from the penalty spot in the 68th minute but Patrik Berger settled matters with a fine 25 metre strike 18 minutes from time.

Brilliant Bolton brushed aside Tottenham with a six-goal swagger.

Scot John McGinlay led the way with a hat-trick to take his tally for the season to 17 for the first division leader, with Gerry Taggart, Nathan Blake and substitute Scott Taylor also on the mark to make Teddy Sheringham's first-half reply nothing more than a sick-looking consolation.

West Ham had taken the lead in the first half with Floria Raducioiu's first goal in English soccer but Portuguese substitute Cavaco slotted home from the edge of the box six minutes in the second half for under-rated Stockport.



CELTIC SQUANDER CHANCE OF GOING TOP

Celtic squandered the chance to take over from Rangers at the top of the Scottish premier division on Saturday when they were held to a 2-2 draw at home by Hearts.

Celtic also finished a disappointing afternoon with 10 men after Italian striker Paolo Di Canio was shown the red card seconds after scoring from a 77th minute penalty to level the scores at 2-2.

Di Canio was dismissed after clashing with Steve Fulton, while six other players were also booked by the referee. Di Canio was the 10th Celtic player to be sent off this season.

In a match of high drama Hearts went ahead through a Colin Cameron header after 31 minutes. Brian O'Neil headed Celtic's first equaliser with a helping hand from Hearts' French goalkeeper Gilles Rousset two minutes before the break.

Neil McCann put Hearts 2-1 up after 64 minutes.

At the other end of the table bottom club Raith beat second-from-bottom Kilmarnock 1-0 thanks to a last-minute winner from Danny Lennon. Kilmarnock finished with 10 men after Jim McIntyre was sent off in the first half.

Darren Jackson scored twice, once from the spot as Hibernian beat Motherwell 2-0 while Dundee United drew 1-1 with Dunfermline.



George Weah faces suspension

Porto Drops Complaint continued from pg 22...

He said he wanted people to see the video of Milan's 1-1 draw, and particularly a foul by Costa shortly before the end, which the Liberian claims came within centimetres of a potential career-ending injury.

"I immediately quelled the instinct to react. But when we were in the tunnel and Costa started insulting me again, shouting 'negro' and making monkey noises, I couldn't just stand there.

"Now I apologise. It might sound ridiculous, but I swear I didn't mean to hurt him. When I saw the blood, I got scared and fled."

Weah was asked whether he was not used to suffering racist abuse.

"The ones from opposing fans doesn't bother me, because it can be a way of helping their team," he said.

"But from another player, who into the bargain is doing it to try and hurt you, I can't justify it. I'm an African and I am proud of it and it's my duty to defend my race."

LIAM BAKER



GLENN MOORE



NEWCASTLE TOPPER BREAKERS